

Israel under fire at IMF talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Arab delegates to the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank meeting Wednesday criticized Israel's military policies in the occupied territories. Speaking on behalf of the Arab group, Mahmoud Jassbi, Syria's minister of economy and foreign trade, also said eight Arab countries are implementing or negotiating reforms in their economies with the IMF in order to become eligible for more loans. He did not name the countries, but IMF officials said they are: Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan, Sudan, Egypt and Somalia. "We deplore Israel's military policies in the occupied Arab territories which have continued to weaken the economic base, hamper growth and disrupt the structure of the production in these territories," Jassbi said. Seeking to adjust to the decline in world oil prices, Arab countries have embarked on reforms that include "substantial cuts in their public expenditures" as well as adopting measures to enhance the growth of the private sector, Jassbi said.

Jordan Times

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Tunisia prime minister replaced

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali sacked his first prime minister Wednesday after a cabinet row over the pace of economic reform and appointed Justice Minister Hamed Karoui in his place. Karoui, a 61-year-old ruling party stalwart, said in his first statement after the dismissal of Prime Minister Hedi Raccouche that the president had asked him to tackle unemployment and the social costs of change. Government sources said Ben Ali thought that the political and economic reform process he began on taking office two years ago had started to falter under the guidance of Raccouche. "It's a breath of fresh air. Tunisia needs new momentum across the board, especially in the economy and in the process of democratization," an official source told reporters. Raccouche had been prime minister since November 1987, when Ben Ali removed Tunisia's first president, Habib Bourguiba, from power on grounds of senility. Under the Tunisian constitution, a cabinet reshuffle need not necessarily follow the dismissal of Raccouche but Ben Ali could take the opportunity to appoint a new minister.

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An Israeli soldier opens fire at Palestinian demonstrators in the West Bank as another soldier (left) plays his cello

Israeli group slams house demolitions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli research group Wednesday criticized the government's policy of demolishing the homes of Palestinians "a violation of human rights and international law."

Researcher Ronny Talmon told a news conference that 236 houses were demolished and 98 were sealed shut by the army to punish Palestinians since the start of the uprising against Israeli rule 21 months ago.

In addition, she said, parts of 60 other homes were destroyed or sealed. "In the West Bank, only in about one per cent of the cases the suspect had been convicted prior to the demolition," she said. "In the Gaza Strip, about 10 per cent of the demolitions were carried out after a conviction."

The research group, the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, said in its report that "no serious attempt was made by the government to determine whether house demolition is a deterrent against security offenses."

It concluded: "Even if the de-

fence authorities could prove correlation... it could not justify such a violation of human rights and international law."

The information centre was founded by liberal Israelis last year to monitor human rights violations in the occupied lands.

According to army statistics, 233 houses were destroyed and 104 sealed through July, including parts of some homes.

The army on Wednesday sealed the home of two Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, Mahmoud Seeyam of Gaza City and Kassem Radwan Karim of Tufas, saying they were accused of belonging to uprising committees and attacking alleged collaborators with Israel.

Fifteen people lived in the three-room house owned by Seeyam, reporters said. They said Seeyam's 21-year-old son, Eyhab, was arrested three months ago for alleged uprising activities.

Israel's house demolition policy previously has drawn criticism from international human rights groups and the U.S. government, which said the policy "contravenes the Fourth Geneva Con-

vention" on protection of people in occupied lands.

The Israeli policy is based on a rule enacted by the British in 1945 in Palestine and has been upheld by the Israeli supreme court.

On July 30, the court for the first time restricted the army's use of demolitions by ruling that Palestinians must be given 48 hours to appeal demolition orders to the military and more time for court appeals.

Joshua Schaffman of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, which brought the court case, told the news conference Wednesday that "we have good reason to believe it will reduce the number" of houses destroyed.

But he added: "All we've won is some sort of due process. That doesn't solve the problem."

Schaffman described house demolitions as "an illegitimate form of punishment that doesn't exist anywhere else in the world."

Meanwhile, Ehud Olmert, the cabinet minister responsible for Arab affairs, said Tuesday that Israel should consider imposing the death penalty for "security

offences in the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

Olmert told reporters that he believed the uprising was continuing because "the punishments applied until now are not deterrent enough... and therefore maybe we should consider perhaps somewhat harsher punishment."

Asked what he would recommend, he said "capital punishment."

'Expulsions to continue'

Israeli Finance Minister Shimon Peres said Tuesday Israel would defy the United Nations and stand firm in its policy of expelling leaders of the uprising because its only other choice is to execute them.

Answering questions at the National Press Club in Washington, Peres, leader of the Labour Party, said: "It's better to expel than to execute because from deportation you can come back. I haven't yet heard of anyone coming back from execution."

Israel has expelled 58 Palestinians since the uprising began.

High-powered committee to ensure public safety

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — In the wake of a series of incidents that affected public health and posed environmental hazards, the government Wednesday announced the formation of a special high-powered committee entrusted with the task of ensuring public safety.

The Jordan news agency, Petra, said Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker formed the committee under the chairmanship of deputy prime minister and Interior Minister Saleem Mase'deh. The panel comprises the ministers of health, social development, energy and mineral resources, municipal and rural affairs, water and irrigation, culture and information, industry and trade, and labour, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, the mayor of Greater Amman Municipality and the directors-general of the National Medical Institution, the Civil Defence Department, the Public Security Department and the Royal Medical Services.

"The committee was entrusted with the task of improving environmental conditions, monitoring food and water sources, preserving public safety, and combating diseases and epidemics," Petra said.

The committee will hold monthly meetings and its deci-



Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker

sions will be binding on all public and private institutions, the agency said. Violators of its decisions and rulings will be prosecuted according to existing public safety regulations, it added.

The formation of the panel comes in wake at least three incidents which threatened or could have had serious repercussions on public health.

The first was a chemical gas leak at a factory in Zarqa last week in which over 100 people were affected by chlorine. No fatalities or serious injuries were reported. Officials said the plant involved was not following safety regulations laid down by the authorities. The Kingdom's top

leadership has ordered a country-wide inspection of similar facilities to avert the recurrence of such incidents.

The second case was the police crackdown on a smuggling operation of unprocessed raw fat transported in sewage trucks. At least 14 commercial establishments were ordered closed and 95 suspects have been detained, according to a Ministry of Interior statement issued earlier this week. Laboratory tests have found that the raw fat was not fit for human consumption, but no names of involved firms of products have been released so far.

Subsequent reports on the fat smuggling case, a steep slump has been reported in demand in the market for local products involving vegetable oil and shortening, including confectioneries and pastries as well as potato chips. Mothers have opted for alternate snacks for their children's breakfast at school. Even some of the most popular items are being shunned, reports indicate.

The third incident was a food poisoning case at the University of Jordan Hospital cafeteria. The minister of health, Zuhair Malhas, said Wednesday that tests have found that a particular type of bacteria caused the food poisoning, which affected over 150 people. (see story below).

Bush expects nuclear treaty

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush said Wednesday there was "a good likelihood" that the United States and Soviet Union will be ready to sign a treaty cutting strategic nuclear arsenals by the time a superpower summit is held in late spring or early summer.

Bush said the scheduling of the summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev "will serve as a catalyst for moving forward" on a treaty but that "it's not a given."

"It's not absolutely certain that that's going to happen, but I would have to agree (there is) a good likelihood that might happen," Bush said in an interview with a small group of reporters in his White House office.

He also restated U.S. opposition to a ban on nuclear testing, saying it was important that the United States have the capability to test the weapons in its arsenal.

Asked about a report that Colombian drug lords had threatened to kidnap one of his five children unless granted amnesty, Bush said, "I have not heard that and I feel confident I would have if there'd been what I call 'hard' intelligence."

He confirmed that security had been increased around his four sons and one daughter but said it was not in response to what he called "a hard threat."

Expressing confidence in the secret service's ability to protect his family, Bush said, "I don't live in fear of anything like that... I can't do my job if I get deterred by rumours."

Bush balked at a Soviet proposal to go beyond the plan he outlined earlier this week at the United Nations for deep cuts in superpower chemical weapon stockpiles.

Asked if he would accept the Kremlin's offer to eliminate all poison gas from U.S. and Soviet arsenals, Bush said, "No. Absolutely not. We need a certain sense of deterrence."

Bush has proposed an 80 per cent cutback in the U.S. arsenal if the Soviet Union will cut back an equal amount. The president also is pushing for an international treaty to eliminate chemical weapons.

Bush said he was pleased that the United States and Soviet Union are enjoying better relations, but he said that was no reason for the United States to relax militarily.

"I don't want to do something naive or silly just because we're working closely with the Soviets today," the president said.

Yazov to visit U.S.

Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov will visit the United States next week in another sign of warming relations between the superpowers, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Wednesday.

Pentagon officials said Yazov would visit Washington, and probably other areas of the United States from Oct. 1 to 6. He will arrive Sunday and be greeted by Cheney on Monday with a Pentagon ceremony and lunch.

Cheney told a news conference the Soviet Union was still a major military power. (see page 8).

'Salmonella' said to have caused food poisoning

By Subeer Obekhat Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Initial tests have revealed that a bacteria named salmonella was the cause of food poisoning which affected more than 150 people at the Jordan University Hospital Sunday. Health Minister Zuhair Malhas said Wednesday.

Malhas said epidemiologic studies were continuing. "We have managed to isolate the organism, and results of epidemiologic studies are expected tomorrow (Thursday)" which will provide more detailed analysis of the case, the minister told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

According to the deputy director of the hospital, Dr. Hussam Al-Mohaseb, "tests showed that salmonella is the cause of the food poisoning that was first reported Sunday night."

"More cases were received Monday and Tuesday and some of the doctors who were discharged after they said they felt well were readmitted when the symptoms persisted," he added. However, none of the patients

were "critical" at any stage, he said.

"Salmonella typhimurium" is a bacteria that multiplies very quickly and which affects meat, fish, poultry, yogurt and other animal products.

The sources of the bacteria could vary from chicken and eggs to poorly cooked meat as well as contaminated food handlers, Malhas said.

According to Mohaseb, "we do not know exactly from where the bacteria came from, and we do not know how this outbreak took place." He dismissed rumours in town that some of the kitchen staff were "arrested," saying that "it is only a normal procedure that everyone involved will be questioned."

He emphasised that "until now, we have not been able to pinpoint the source of the bacteria. So, questions of disciplinary action are too premature."

Epidemiologic studies on stomach samples were further complicated by the fact that those affected had not had the same items of food that was served Sunday at the hospital cafeteria. "Some ate only salad

and fruits while others did not take them at all," Mohaseb said.

One of the possible sources was one of the workers in the hospital kitchen who might have had bacteria on his or her hands, and it could have been easily transferred to the food the hospital staff ate, according to Mohaseb.

Hospital regulations stipulate that every member of the kitchen staff had to undergo thorough medical check-ups every three months.

The incubation period of salmonella varies from three hours to 36 hours, which explains why some cases were received Tuesday, Mohaseb said.

He said that no new cases were reported Wednesday and 30 patients were discharged and only 50 were still hospitalised, "but we expect to release some more later this afternoon."

Malhas has explained the details of the affair as well as other current issues such as the case of smuggled raw fat in an interview with Jordan Television Wednesday, but the footage was not expected to be broadcast until Friday.

Aoun dampens hopes that Taif talks could succeed

BEIRUT (Agencies) — An Arab League peace plan for Lebanon faltered only four days after fragile peace returned to Lebanon when army chief Michel Aoun declared Wednesday it was already blocked.

The general who heads one of two rival administrations in the divided country lashed out at Syria from the wrecked presidential palace in east Beirut, blaming the impasse on its refusal to withdraw its 33,000 troops from Lebanon immediately.

Much hope had so far been pinned on a meeting of surviving members of the Lebanese parliament in Saudi Arabia Saturday to debate political reforms proposed by the Arab League to end 14 years of civil war.

Aoun told reporters that Christian deputies due to join the talks in the Saudi mountain resort of Taif should insist that a timetable is set for a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon before any discussion of the proposed reforms.

The ceasefire which came into force last Saturday ended six months of shelling between Aoun's forces and Syria and its allies in which more than 800 were killed and large parts of Beirut and the mountains surrounding it were devastated.

Aoun said that he had been forced to accept the seven-point peace plan last Friday. Asked if it was doomed to failure, Aoun said: "It is blocked."

He said the plan was deadlocked after a statement by Syrian Vice President Abdul Hafim Khaddam that no Syrian troops would leave before political re-

forms and the formation of a national unity government.

Beirut dailies quoted Khaddam as saying: "Not a single Syrian soldier will leave his position in Lebanon before political reforms are achieved."

A Christian source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the AP Aoun had "passed the message to several parliamentary deputies" amid a flurry of meetings between Christian and Muslim military leaders and legislators in advance of the Taif meeting.

The Al Sharq daily accused Aoun of "obstructing the peace process by bringing pressure to bear on legislators not to attend the meeting in Saudi Arabia."

Aoun was also scheduled to preside over a meeting of Christian legislators later Wednesday to formulate what the independent Al Nahar daily described as a "united Christian stand" at the Saudi Arabian summit.

A Muslim parliamentarian, speaking on condition of anonymity, alleged Aoun wanted to "do his best to prevent a parliamentary quorum in Saudi Arabia because he fears that legislators might elect a president there."

Two-thirds of the 73 parliamentarians constitutes a quorum, which is needed to elect a president.

Lebanon has been without a head of state since Sept. 22, 1988, when President Amin Gemayel's six-year term expired with parliament unable to elect a successor. That political crisis triggered the last spasm of bloodletting.

In Damascus, Khaddam held

talks with Muslim legislators and a pro-Syrian Christian deputy, Michel Daher, who was Syria's candidate to succeed Gemayel.

Syrian officials referred to Daher as the "Lebanese presidential candidate." That indicated they may present him again if the legislators make headway in Saudi Arabia, a move that could provoke right-wing Christians who opposed him last year.

The parliament deputies are to discuss a draft "national reconciliation charter" which would end Christian domination of the country's political system and give the majority Muslims an equal say.

The plan envisages a Syrian withdrawal from Beirut and the redeployment of Syrian troops in eastern Lebanon but only once a new president and government are elected under a reformed political system.

In Paris, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was quoted Wednesday as saying Syria had no right to keep its forces in Lebanon.

"The Syrians do not have the right to stay in Lebanon, they have no authority over Lebanon. They must leave," he said in an interview with the French daily Le Figaro on the eve of a visit to Paris.

Mubarak said a Syrian withdrawal might take some time. "A whole process is involved," he said. "Parliament is summoned, it elects a president and reforms the constitution. Then a government is formed and this government will negotiate with Damascus on whether Syrian troops stay or leave."

OPEC reaches flawed accord

GENEVA (Agencies) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ministers ended five days of talks in Geneva with a flawed oil output quota accord that did not look as if it would help much to strengthen prices.

Algeria dissented and called it illegal. Kuwait voiced reservations, as it did with a previous agreement in June, since when it has openly flouted its mandated output quota.

The new pact by a majority of the 13-OPEC countries failed to set new quotas or to meet demand to be allowed sell more oil by Kuwait and the other big quota violator, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

It simply lifted the notional ceiling on OPEC supply by one million barrels per day (bpd) to 20.5 million — at least a million less than what the group is pumping now — and raised existing individual country quotas on a pro rata basis.

OPEC Secretary-General Subroto said Algeria was the only country not to sign on to the deal. Iran and Iraq, he said, made comments, but he did not elaborate.

The ministers were at odds throughout the meeting over how much they could raise any production ceiling without sending prices sliding.

PLO determined to seek American visa for Arafat

TUNIS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is even more determined to seek a U.S. visa for its Chairman Yasser Arafat after a demand by U.S. congressmen to bar him from the United States, a Palestinian leader said Wednesday.

On Tuesday 68 senators and 44 members of the House of Representatives asked Secretary of State James Baker not to let Arafat pass through the United States on his way to address the U.N. General Assembly.

Salah Khalaf, Arafat's deputy in the mainstream Fatah movement, told Reuters in an interview: "We consider this a hostile position, a position which is not at all impartial, a position which shows the complete bias towards Israel."

"In fact it makes us more determined to make a visa application and the United States will have to bear the consequences in front of the Arab World and our friends in the world."

In Washington, a U.S. official said the State Department had approved visa applications for two PLO officials to attend the U.N. General Assembly session in New York.



Yasser Arafat

The official said the visas were approved for Yasser Abed Rabbo and Suliman Najjah, both PLO officials based in Tunis. The authorisation was relayed to the U.S. embassy in Tunis Tuesday night, the official said on condition of not being identified.

It was not clear whether PLO visa applications were received only from those two officials. Last year the General Assembly moved to Geneva for its annual debate on Palestine be-

cause Baker's predecessor, George Shultz, rejected a visa for Arafat to address the session.

When Arafat later renounced terrorism and recognised Israel's right to exist, Shultz dropped a longstanding ban on direct talks with the PLO.

Khalaf said it was too early to say if the PLO would try to move the session again if Baker refused Arafat a visa.

"We're not saying that now. At this stage we're just saying we want to expose the attitude of the United States to world public opinion and Arab public opinion," he said.

On Egyptian diplomatic attempts to break the deadlock in the Middle East peace process, Khalaf said the obstacle was Israeli right-wing opposition to President Hosni Mubarak's idea of a preliminary dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians.

The PLO would not name a Palestinian delegation or set the exact conditions for its make-up until the Israeli government answered yes to the 10 points raised by Egypt on elections in the Israeli-occupied territories, he added.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

BADRAN VISITS SUKAINA GIRLS SCHOOL: Minister of Education Adnan Badran Wednesday made an inspection visit to Sukaina girls school in Amman and was briefed on training programmes on computers. The minister also visited the laboratory section and watched experiments conducted by secondary students. At a meeting later with the staff, the minister praised the teachers' efforts and underlined the importance of the school administration's role in the educational process. Badran also visited the school library and the domestic science unit and urged the staff to give special attention to vocational training courses. (Petra)

SAKET ISSUES CIRCULAR: Minister of Agriculture Bassam Al Saket Wednesday issued a circular to all agricultural departments in the Kingdom to ensure that owners of agricultural nurseries abide by ministry regulations when importing plants to avoid bringing in plant diseases that could adversely affect agriculture in the country. Importers of plants and fruit tree saplings should abide by regulations requiring special licences from the ministry and its departments, said the minister in his circular. He said that special certificates should testify that the imported plants and saplings are germ free and issued from the country supplying the products. He said sufficient information about the plants along with the price should be attached to all types displayed for sale at the nurseries. (Petra)

GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS ENVOY'S NOMINATION: The Jordanian government has accepted the nomination of Mohammed Sharif Kharroubi as Algerian ambassador to Jordan. Kharroubi would succeed Mohammed Bergham who had served as ambassador for Algeria since 1986. (Petra)

NEW PUBLIC GARDENS IN AMMAN: The Cabinet Wednesday announced its decision to allow Greater Amman Municipality to utilise wooded areas within the municipality boundaries to create public gardens. It said that the Department of Afforestation will maintain its technical supervisory role over the tree-planting processes in these gardens. (Petra)

BASHAIREH MEETS STUDENTS: Ministry of Higher Education's Secretary General Ahmad Bashaireh met Wednesday with a group of students who won scholarships to study in the Soviet colleges and universities, to brief them on the general social situation in the Soviet Union and matters related to education and living conditions. Bashaireh urged the Jordanian students to serve as good ambassadors for Jordan in the friendly nation. (Petra)

KEILANI RECEIVES FRENCH ENVOY: Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Keilani Wednesday discussed with French Ambassador to Jordan Dennis Bouchard scopes of cooperation in the field of water and irrigation. (Petra)

NO CONTAMINATED FAT IN AQABA: Aqaba is free from contaminated fat and the concerned authorities in Aqaba district are alert ever since reports surfaced on this subject, the Aqaba Health Department director said. He added that health control would continue to make sure that health conditions are met. Employees of the Aqaba Health Department Wednesday made an inspection tour of a number of restaurants, bakeries, commercial stores, hotels and institutions dealing with foodstuff. (Petra)

N. YEMENI STUDENT TEAM ARRIVES: A 35-member student delegation from Sana'a University, in North Yemen, visited Yarmouk University Wednesday within the framework of cooperation between the two universities. (Petra)

INDUSTRIAL LAW VIOLATOR JAILED: The military court Wednesday sentenced Ibrahim Abdullah Khushram to one month imprisonment and the payment of a JD 100 fine for violating regulations concerning industrial specifications and standards. The military governor endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

POLLING CENTRES IN KARAK, AJLOUN: The local authorities in Karak in southern Jordan have assigned 36 polling centres for voters in the coming parliamentary elections. The stations are within the Karak Governorate but are divided into two sections, one for males and the other for females. In Ajloun in northern Jordan, a total of 71 polling centres have been assigned by the local authorities for voting in the Nov. 8 elections.

MERCHANTS CAN IMPORT GARLIC, DATES: The Agricultural Marketing Organisation announced Wednesday that Jordanian merchants can export all types of vegetables and fruit in the coming month and can only import garlic and dates which are in short supply in Jordan. The organisation also allowed the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company to import potatoes and apples in the coming month.

RELIEF CENTRE GETS U.K. GIFT: The Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR) in Sweden Wednesday received a set of equipment worth JD 5,300 as a gift from the British government. The gift, presented by British Ambassador Anthony Reeve, will be used in the training centre and affiliated workshops. The set will help increase production and provide useful training for students. (J.T.)

French exhibition to mark Eiffel Tower construction

AMMAN (J.T.) — To mark the first centennial of the construction of Eiffel Tower in Paris, the French Cultural Centre will hold an exhibition during the period from Oct. 1 to Oct. 15.

The two-week event tells the story of the "Old Lady," known world-wide as the symbol of Paris. On display at the exhibition will be photographs, drawing and pictures from the archives demonstrating all its aspects, from the very first sketches to its recent blazing lights, illuminating the nights of Paris.

Eiffel Tower was built in 1889 to mark the French Revolution. It embodies the power and the energy of France at the end of the 19th century. Gustaf Eiffel and a group of engineers worked hard to accomplish this great job of building the tower. Eiffel himself also built the metallic structure of

the famous Statue of Liberty in New York.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An Indian photographic exhibition — "Jawahar Lal Nehru, His Life and Times" — at the Students Activities Complex, University of Jordan.
- ★ A photo exhibition by French artist Jean-Noel de Sore displaying photos projecting fashion accessories such as jewelry, caps, scarfs and belts, at the French Cultural Centre (the exhibition also displays slides on the history of fashion).
- ★ An exhibition of watercolours on Jordan by Salwa Kanaan at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of national heritage which displays embroideries, pottery and brass works, equipment used in ploughing and hunting and traditional costumes, at Al-Majma'a Vocational School, Al Tallah.

FILMS

- ★ A feature film entitled "Ragtime" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ An Italian film entitled "Le Avventure di Pinocchio" at the Hays Arts Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Seminar discusses Israeli bid to control Arab farms, fishing

AMMAN (J.T.) — Delegates to the three-day seminar on development in the occupied Arab territories Wednesday reviewed seven working papers ranging from water resources to Israel's measures to control Arab farmland and fisheries in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

One of the working papers dealt on the problem of water in Jordan whose experiments in rural development could be copied in the occupied Arab lands; and noted that between 50 and 600 millimetres of rain water fall in Jordan and Palestine annually.

The paper also noted that more than 91 per cent of the whole area of Jordan receives around 200 millimetres of rain water annually.

The paper, which was presented by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, outlined the volume of water present in the water basins in Jordan, water projects such as Al Wahdeh Dam, which will have a storage capacity of 225 million cubic metres, and the other smaller dams which already exist in Jordan.

The paper said Karameh Dam has a capacity of 55 million cubic metres; Wadi Al Yabes Dam, seven million; Wadi Kufuneh, three million; Wadi Al Zarga, two million; Nakhliah, 13 million; Wadi Al Hassa, 12 million; Wadi Al-Waleh, 20 million; and Kafrein, three million cubic metres of water.

The paper reviewed other water projects and dams which are under construction, and presented an outline of proper methods for developing water resources in the Kingdom.

The second paper dealt with the Zionist ideology and water strategy, and pointed out that Israel was intent on stealing and exploiting Arab water resources found in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The third paper tackled Israel's military orders pertaining to the expropriation of Arab lands and limitations imposed on Arab farmers in marketing their dairy products.

The fourth paper dealt with the philosophy of enhancing resistance and the role of local leaders, municipal councils and peoples committees. It also touched on matters related to local industries, cooperative societies and voluntary teaching.

The fifth paper was related to the sufferings of people in the rural regions of the occupied Arab lands, and the role of Palestinian women in the socio-economic development process, as well as the on-going intifada and the various problems encountered in this field.

The paper provided proposals and recommendations for reactivating the role of women in these areas.

The sixth paper tackled the question of fisheries in the Gaza Strip, and said that fishermen in the occupied strip produced 250 tonnes of fish in 1986 down from 3,700 tonnes in 1968.

The paper reviewed the reasons behind the decline in fishing, blaming it mostly on Israel's arbitrary measures and restrictions on Arab fishermen.

The seventh paper presents an integrated working plan for the development of fisheries in the occupied Arab lands.

The seminar, which is being

held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is designed to serve as a vehicle to provide new ideas to help the Palestinian people maintain their struggle and steadfastness in the face of Israeli aggression and continued occupation.

The meetings are expected to formulate a practical and inte-

grated practical programme that can be applied in the course of development in the occupied Arab lands, similar to those programmes carried out in Egypt and Jordan.

Representatives of a number of Arab, regional and international organisations are attending the meeting.

Palestinian farming on course despite intifada

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian farmers received the support of the united leadership of the intifada during their olive picking season this year, and Palestinian food products are finding their way to the European table, according to the president of the Farming Cooperative Councils Union in the occupied West Bank, Tahseen Al Faris.

"We called upon the united leadership of the intifada through local newspapers to decrease violence during the olive season and within a few days, there was a leaflet distributed by the leadership calling on all able men to help farmers pick, store and transport the blessed olives," Faris told the Jordan Times.

The year 1989, according to Faris, was the best olive season in more than 50 years. "We produced 32,000 tons of olive oil, which, in effect, means a national income of JD 40 million from our olive trees alone."

Another farming success story in 1989 is Palestinian produce reaching the European market. "We had a problem in marketing the excess of our produce in the Arab World and abroad, but need is the mother of invention so we created the Farming Cooperative Councils Union," said Faris.

The union brought together 583 farmers' societies which represented 48,000 families, their representatives initiated market research to determine the areas which could absorb Palestinian produce.

"With our limited resources we started establishing assembly stations from which we exported our first trial batch of Palestinian produce to France with the help of the European Community (EC)," Faris said.

He boasted that foreign experts' assessment of the Palestinian produce "was much higher than our expectations. We received \$2,000 a ton because of the quality and packing of our produce." The only sources of funding, outside the initiative of the farmers themselves, was from the Jordanian Cooperative Organisation in the form of loans.

Faris maintained that the "cooperatives" had a large role in supporting the intifada and that they have emerged as "the infrastructure of the intifada according to American experts who visited us and saw our work."

The cooperatives, according to Faris, have made an effort throughout the intifada to provide citizens with basic foods and staples. "For example, a cooperative in Nablis changed its farming choice on 18,000 dunams from watermelon to staples to fulfill the needs of the citizens of the West Bank," Faris said. This practice was one of the main reasons why the West Bank was not able to provide its eastern counterpart with watermelon this year, he explained.

Faris and four other members of the cooperatives union are currently in Amman to attend a conference of urban development and the economics of self-dependency in the occupied territories in light of the Jordanian and Egyptian experiences.

He said that representatives from the cooperatives were invited to the conference to "portray the correct picture of the land and its development in the occupied territories and define ways to ensure this development in light of the occupation."

According to Faris, the farmers in the occupied territories need support in finding "markets, heavy equipment, experts and transportation and communication facilities."

These demands would help the farmers to strengthen "the infrastructure of the Palestinian urban areas and will support the steadfastness of man over his land."

Asked what the cooperatives expect to achieve during the Amman seminar, Faris said: "We want to include several items in the recommendations of the seminar;

"(a) Considering the cooperatives as the infrastructure of the development plan in the occupied territories since they are the only public organisation capable of carrying this responsibility;

"(b) Supporting the cooperative morally by considering them as the main representatives of the farming and cooperative sector in Arab and foreign organisations.

"(c) Looking for Arab and European markets for the Palestinian excess produce.

"(d) Extending American and European expertise and help in cooperative and farming training."

Keilani inspects treatment plants

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation announced Wednesday that it will be taking specific measures designed to eliminate the sources of bad smell which had been polluting the atmosphere and causing inconvenience to the general public in areas where wastewater treatment plants are operating.

A statement here said that a series of measures to deal with this problem was reviewed at a meeting chaired by Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani, who stressed the need to take possible steps to ensure public safety and also the quality of the treated water coming out of the plants, so that there could be no harm done to the

neighbouring environment and the surface and underground water resources.

Attention at the meeting was directed in particular to the Khirbet Al Samra, Al Baqaa and An Nuseir waste water treatment plants and their immediate vicinity and there was a general exchange of views about the bad smell coming out of them poisoning the atmosphere.

The meeting also examined measures that should be taken to ensure that the treated water can be used for irrigating fruit trees and for other forms of irrigation, according to the statement.

Following the meeting, the minister and a team of officials and technicians made a tour of

the three plants and examined the process of treating wastewater and discussed methods for improving their standards.

According to the statement, a meeting will be held at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Thursday under the chairmanship of Keilani to review the outcome of the inspection tours and to make a general assessment of the studies to find solutions and make improvements to the plants.

Conference on protection of plants begins on Oct. 3

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-day Jordanian conference on the protection of plants will open at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture on Oct. 3, according to an announcement by a committee preparing for the conference.

Committee chairman Dr. Ibrahim Al Nasser said that the delegates will review 80 working papers dealing with methods for combating pests; diseases that affect plants, man and animal and means of providing protection to food plants and trees.

Dr. Nasser said that the delegates, who include agricultural experts from Jordan and the

Arab World will make field tours of Jordanian agricultural projects in the Jordan Valley region, the University of Jordan's farm near Deir Alla and other areas, to have a close-hand look at plans for developing food production.

The delegates, he said, will also visit research stations which experiment with methods to eliminate pests and protect plant growth.

University President Mahmood Al Samra is expected to open the two-day meeting which is organised by the university in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture.



Health Minister Zuhair Malhas Wednesday addresses a conference of Arab surgeons in Amman (Petra photo)

First conference of Arab surgeons opens

Malhas urges promoting medical specialisations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan, like many other nations around the world, is now facing new forms of diseases and the situation calls for closer cooperation among Arab countries to promote the role of medical specialisations and the work of the Arab Council for Medical Specialisations, Health Minister Zuhair Malhas said in Amman Wednesday.

The council's work is now urgently needed to provide training to young Arab doctors and to supervise medical endeavours in the fight against diseases, Malhas said in an address to the opening session of the 17th Jordanian conference and the first conference of Arab surgeons attended by 500 surgeons and specialists from the Arab World and foreign countries.

Malhas, who deputised for His Majesty King Hussein at the opening session, noted with satisfaction the decline of infant mortality rate in Jordan to 35 per thousand, and the drop of death rate due to contagious diseases to a mere one per cent.

Malhas said that deaths from heart diseases last year accounted for 18 per cent of the total number of deaths in the Kingdom, while deaths from cancer registered seven per cent.

Primary health care and preventive medicine have contributed most effectively to reduce

deaths and the national vaccination programme in Jordan is regarded as one of the biggest achievements compared with Third World nations, the minister pointed out.

He said that nearly 95 per cent of Jordan's children receive immunisation against tetanus, whooping cough and polio, and 50 per cent of the total number of children are normally protected against measles.

In his address, the minister reviewed the numerous achievements made possible through the National Medical Institution (NMI) which runs hospitals in Jordan, the private sector and the Health Ministry's operations.

Giving a breakdown of figures, the minister noted that the country now has 55 hospitals with 5,600 beds, 5,640 doctors and specialists and 2,311 nurses. He said Jordan hopes to attain self sufficiency in nurses by the year 1995.

Last April, the minister was quoted as saying that Jordan hopes to have 4,000 nurses by the end of the century and was increasing its efforts at all levels to achieve that aim.

Last August, Malhas attended a ceremony for the graduation of the first batch of nursing instructors. The 14 graduates are much needed to provide instruction to the increasing number of nurses in the country.

According to the Minister of Health, Jordanian private and public hospitals last year registered 338,444 admissions of patients and 82,795 surgical operations as well as 86,338 deliveries.

Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Mamdouh Al Abbadi said that the gathering offers doctors and surgeons from the Arab World and friendly na-

tions the chance to look into Jordan's achievements and to exchange views in medical affairs.

Abbadi paid tribute to the efforts of Arab surgeons and doctors in the occupied Arab territories and said that their medical services to the wounded and sick are part of the all-out Palestinian intifada in the face of Israel's brutal and inhuman practices.

Dr. Hassan Khreiss, secretary general of the Federation of Arab Doctors which is organising the meeting in cooperation with (JMA), said that the exchange of views and expertise at the meeting would contribute towards the advancement of surgical services in the Arab World.

He called for stepped up efforts in medical planning organisation and coordination in the Arab region.

Khreiss also outlined the federation's endeavours to raise the standard of Arab doctors and to activate medical work. He said the federation has also been involved in conducting research and Arabising foreign medical terms for the benefit of the Arab society.

"The federation follows with deep concern the deterioration of the medical situation in the occupied Arab territories resulting from Israel's fascist and brutal measures," Khreiss added.

He referred to Israel's closure of Arab hospitals and health centres, the detention of Arab doctors and the medical staff, the obstruction of ambulances from carrying out their duty as a clear violation of the Geneva conventions and international laws.

Khreiss urged all international humanitarian organisations to help put an end to Israel's brutal actions and to offer humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people.

According to Dr. Abdullah Al Bashir, chairman of a committee that prepared for the conference, a total of 50 working papers covering a wide range of diseases and matters related to surgery will be reviewed by the delegates.

A total of 28 working papers have been presented by Jordanian specialists.



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Time is the essence

AT A TIME when the entire world is rejoicing over the Lebanese factions' acceptance of the Arab League's seven-point peace plan, it would be prudent to pause for a while to determine whether the guarded optimism already generated is only intended as a respite to quell only the last chapter in the civil war in Lebanon. It will be noted that the Arab peace plan, which the world is acclaiming now with unprecedented euphoria as a breakthrough, came about more as a response to the last few months of intense fighting between the warring factions in Lebanon than as a panacea to the entire Lebanese crisis. What gives food for thought in this gloomy prognosis is the continuation of voices emanating from within Lebanon that still suggest that the conflict is far from over.

It would be easy to dismiss such negative voices as of marginal importance in the face of the colossal wave of optimism that the beginning of the end to the Lebanese tragedy has finally dawned on the country. The latest spasms of violent flareups are but the epitome of the last dying days of belligerency in Lebanon. All parties have finally succumbed to reason, tolerance and accommodation. That is also why all efforts must concentrate on the objective of consolidating the ceasefire in Lebanon and the fortification of other complementary measures in the shortest possible time. Otherwise, the enemies of peace in Lebanon, and they are numerous, would indeed regroup once again to deal a death blow to what has painstakingly been achieved. In other words, the momentum of peace and reconciliation must be pursued with maximum vigour.

Also, the restructuring of peace in Lebanon must now be built one block at a time. Nonetheless, construction of peace must be conducted expeditiously. Time, therefore, is obviously of the essence lest the foes of peace in the war-torn country succeed in obstructing the process of forging peace. That is the only way to convince the Lebanese factions that the Arab peace plan was never intended only as a prescription for the last six months of bloody fighting but rather as a solution to the Lebanese crisis from A to Z. Now it is up to the Lebanese parliament, scheduled to convene in Saudi Arabia at the end of September, to adopt the necessary new national pact that will end forever the cracks within the Lebanese structure. It is the hope of all mankind that this time the Lebanese leaders will not fail them.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Jordanian Arabic dailies on Wednesday expressed delight over the outcome of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit in Sanaa.

Al Ra'i daily said that the agreement reached by the heads of state of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen constitute a very serious plan designed to promote national efforts for unity. In his speech at the summit King Hussein emphasised very important facts, that the Arab people refuse to recognise boundaries within the Arab World, they adhere to total unity, continue to provide support for the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and will support the Arab League in its efforts to achieve peace in Lebanon, the paper said. In his speech also, the paper added, the King pointed out that Iraq which came out victorious from the eight year long Gulf conflict, continues to extend hand of peace to Iran and will pursue efforts for stability in the Gulf. The King's speech, the paper said, was clearly an embodiment of the principles and objectives of the Great Arab Revolt which came earlier this century to achieve unity among Arabs and to serve their highest national interests.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily criticises the United States president for placing a very hard condition on Yasser Arafat for issuing him a visa to address the United Nations General Assembly in New York. Ibrahim Sakikjha quoted a report in the Israeli media as saying that George Bush had asked that Arafat's speech to the General Assembly should not include any attack against Israel or the United States, and that Arafat should give approval in advance to Egypt's 10-point plan to solve the Middle East problem and approval to Israel's right to exist; and to renounce terrorism. The writer says it will not be strange to hear tomorrow that Bush will want to see Arafat's speech censored by the American State Department, and that clearance for the contents of the speech should first be obtained from the American government. The writer recalls on earlier instance when Arafat was denied entry to the United States and was forced to deliver his speech in Geneva, and says that the United States should not be allowed to do such practices because it hosts the world organisation in New York and should not object to any kind of speech directed against any nation at the U.N. assembly because this condition is clearly stated in the agreement that established the world body on U.S. territory. The writer also hopes that the United States will now issue a denial of the Israeli report which is not becoming of a world power.

Al Dustour daily newspaper also commented on the outcome of the Sanaa summit and said that King Hussein's speech voiced the stand of the four ACC states and their determination to pursue the goal of pan-Arab unity. The King said that he felt the Arab masses desire for unity during his visits to Egypt, Baghdad and Sanaa for summit talks, and noted with satisfaction the ongoing process towards integration, leading to an overall unity, the paper said. It said that only if the heads of the ACC countries achieve further steps to serve their people can they continue to enjoy the overwhelming support of their masses. Furthermore, the ACC as the King said in his address, should find means to maintain all forms of assistance to the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom, the paper said. The paper referred to the situations in Lebanon and the Gulf, which the King tackled in his speech; and said that the ACC was clearly destined to help solve many of the Arab Nation's problems and pave the ground for unity.

An early warning system called Khalil Salem

By Waleed Sadi

ON JANUARY 27, 1987, Dr. Khalil Salem, the founder of the Central Bank of Jordan, delivered a speech before the World Affairs Council, which he nick-named *dardasha* (chat), on the economic and fiscal dangers that in his view loomed in Jordan's horizon. That was more than two and a half years ago, well before economic and financial tragedy befell the Kingdom. His sounding of the alarm was dismissed by many renowned economists, both private and official, as all were intoxicated by the semblance of good times existing and yet to come. Even this writer was foolish enough to punch holes in the warning issued by Dr. Salem, although Dr. Salem later excused me because of my shallow knowledge about economic matters! Besides we are such good friends that tolerance for short-sightedness on my part was in order.

But let us all recall what Dr. Salem had said loud and clear for all to hear and understand. First, he cautioned in no uncertain terms that continued loose budgeting and unrestrained spending by both the private and public sectors would bring economic and fiscal catastrophes sooner or later. In elaborating his concern Dr. Salem went on to warn that the government should promote exports, stop fancy projects and instead make investment in revenue-generating businesses, and relax its exchange rate to make it more competitive. But the key panacea that Dr. Salem had prescribed then was the need to introduce forthwith a host of sweeping austerity measures. He went on to spell a detailed programme of remedial action which included, inter alia, the urgent need to stem the growing debt problem which he foresaw as developing into an unmanageable monster.

He went on to offer examples of poor investment in schemes, which he referred to as non-lucrative projects such as: the South Cement Factory, the Jordan Timber Processing Industries, the Abu Nuseir Housing project, the Yarmouk University expansion project, the Jordan Fertilisers Company and the Plaza Hotel. He also expressed concern about the growing cost of the Queen Alia International Airport, and the Arab Potash Company.

On the national debt issue Dr. Salem compared the meager loans that the country incurred when he was minister of finance back in 1973 which were in the tune of JD 63 million with the phenomenal figure of JD 1 billion in 1986.

The private sector did not escape Dr. Salem's scrutiny. He observed then that much money was spent on luxury items, the like of building palaces and villas, import of gold and jewellery and cars etc. In this context he noted that 54 per cent of all imports were luxury items.

Dr. Salem also pointed his finger at the first sign of unemployment and the decline of the Central Bank's foreign currency reserves as ominous manifestations of worse things to come.

Unfortunately Dr. Salem's warning was not heeded then. Even while making his views, he was occasionally interrupted by Dr. Hanna Odeh, the minister of finance then. To be sure the entire country did not choose to hear out Dr. Salem and instead choose to ignore his counsel. And this is where it got us, to close our ears to free advice that was clearly motivated by overwhelming anxiety over the economic future of the country. Even as late as May 14, 1987 a noted economist, Dr. Nayef Zubi, ostracised Dr. Salem for preaching belt-tightening and for diagnosing Jordan's ailing

economy as due for none other than the following: Massive imports of which 57 per cent were luxury items, an increase of overall indebtedness by more than 15 folds, decline in foreign currency reserves, huge investments in non-lucrative projects, a rigid exchange policy and linkage of economic issues to political development. Yet these very policies are exactly what the country has had to put with of late to reverse the downward trend of the Jordan's economy and its fiscal policies.

The moral of the story is that had the country listened carefully to Dr. Salem some two and half a years ago, we would have avoided the extreme measures that were imposed on the national economy. Suffice to mention the national debt problem which has swollen to preposterous proportions before the danger signal was finally sounded. The depletion of Jordan's reservoir of hard currencies was also one of the early prophecies of Dr. Salem and had it been observed things would not have deteriorated to the extent they did. Our discovery that the country and people had been living way beyond their means is now a foregone conclusion. Dr. Salem, the wise man, had called the entire Kingdom to order, but no one believed that things were that bad. And since Dr. Salem was one of the very few who diagnosed Jordan's economic and fiscal problems early enough, one can and should place total faith in his continuous teachings on how to continue and what road to tread on for economic salvation. If apologies are due to Khalil Salem for wantonly disregarding his commandments, one for sure comes from me. What is more important than offering apologies is to take that proven man more seriously from now on. I certainly have learned by lesson, but will others do?

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — A gap is widening between U.S. government and European attitudes toward the East. It is exactly what officials warned about as the political climate warmed and the threat of confrontation eased.

But it is not the result of mindless European "Gorbymania," nor of sly Moscow manipulation to divide the Western allies. It comes from the Bush administration's unwillingness to sustain encouragement for reform launched by President Reagan towards the end of his term, and widely welcomed as the new U.S. policy.

Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger threw cold water on European expectations recently. The context was unexceptionable. His speech on "Foreign Policy in a Time of Transition" was a careful reminder that a history is not over and that a "fundamentally different set of challenges" lies ahead. "The multipolar world into which we are moving (is not) necessarily going to be a safer place," he said. He called on the West to maintain "the security consensus which has served it so well over the past 40 years until the process of democratic reform in the East has truly become irreversible."

All true. All important. No responsible alliance official disagrees that the democracies must "renew their commitment to a collective and cooperative approach to the major issues," and that this "will require Amer-

This nostalgia could leave America out in the cold

ican leadership of the highest order."

The sting came in one short passage. Mr. Eagleburger spoke of the "danger" that NATO members will "compete" in trying to help Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms. "This, however," he said, "is not the task of American foreign policy, nor should it be that of our Western partners. Our task, after all, is to devise policies which will serve our interests whether Gorbachev succeeds or fails."

The point is that it is not a matter of bolstering Mr. Gorbachev, or the government of Poland. It is a matter of supporting the aspirations of societies in the East for democracy and a place in the world trading system so they can support themselves, and contribute to facing the new challenges.

That is how the Europeans see their interests, and it ought to be seen as America's interest as well. Senator George Mitchell of Maine, a Democrat, got it right when he said the administration

seemed "almost nostalgic about the Cold War."

This is producing differences not only on the Soviet Union but on Poland and Hungary as well. Allied response to Mr. Bush at the NATO summit meeting in May showed tremendous relief that he performed as a leader. But enthusiasm drains away when Washington wants to be the lead mule, straining to hold things back when the needs are so clearly for changes that the allies have been demanding for 40 years.

Recently the Solidarity leader Lech Walesa visited Bonn and got hearty encouragement, and some bad news. Washington announced it would do nothing more for the new Polish government than double the promise of \$50 million in food aid.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher had to tell Mr. Walesa that Mr. Eagleburger, who had just been in Bonn, agreed with France and West Germany on debt relief for Poland, but not on a big increase in

technological aid, government-backed guarantees for private foreign investment or more urgently needed food aid, which the Europeans advocate.

There was even discreet political support, from opposition Socialists as well as from the government, to assure Poland that Bonn did not challenge its western border. Mr. Genscher said that for the Germans, Eastern Europe began on Poland's eastern frontier. "You are simply in Europe."

Inevitably, the crumbling of Cold War assumptions opens all kinds of difficult new military, strategic and political questions that must be addressed with expertise and caution. But the human element that informs what it has all been about is missing in Washington's voice.

The Italian editor Arrigo Levi recently set the tone. "We have waited so long for you," he said for Russians and Poles and Hungarians to hear. "We want you to return and join us. We are eager to welcome you back to the world."

For so long, the only emotions visible in East-West relations have been fear, suspicion, hatred. It is time to show that, yes, we are determined to protect our interests but we see their interests served as well in overcoming a deadly rivalry. It is not so much a victory for the West that the Communist system is breaking down as it is a reaffirmation of our common human spirit. That was the idea underlying the alliance, and if Washington will not sustain it, America will feel the cold — *The New York Times*.

ACRI moves to end 'disappearances'

ISRAELI security forces "routinely" fail to notify Palestinian families of the arrest of relatives and their place of detention, according to a petition recently submitted to the Israeli high court by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI).

"No law-abiding state can 'spin it away' people and 'hide' them without a trace, even temporarily," ACRI says in its petition against the military commanders of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The petition cites cases in which notification of arrest and place of imprisonment was delayed for weeks, and notes that detainees are not usually informed of the reason for their arrest. This prevents families from obtaining legal help for their jailed relatives.

ACRI, which is seeking a court order requiring the military commanders of the occupied territories to give notice of arrests and of places of detention, is joined in the petition by three Palestinians who were not informed of the detention of relatives until up to a

month after they were seized. It also cites the experience of the lawyer Osama Zid of Jenin, who in the past six years, during which he has represented hundreds of security detainees, has "never received notice of the arrest of any of his clients."

In recent months, says ACRI, it has received dozens of requests for help from Palestinians trying to locate detained relatives. The army had told ACRI that families were notified of arrests through lists of detainees posted at offices of Israel's civil administration (which administers the occupation), but the petition said that most Palestinians were unaware of the arrangement. Moreover, checks by ACRI revealed that the list in Nablus had pages missing and that the lists in Ramallah and Jenin had not been updated for up to five months. In addition, the lists only included people held temporarily in holding cells, and gave no information on prisoners transferred to permanent detention centres — CAABU

The Bus Song

THE LATEST hit song in the Gaza Strip is "The Bus Song," which describes the attack on the Israeli bus near Jerusalem three months ago that killed 16 people.

After praising the Nuseirat resident who seized the steering wheel of the bus and sent it plunging into a ravine, where it burst into flames, the song continues: When he called out the name of God Repeating Allah Akbar He declared a jihad. He kept repeating the name of God, He turned the steering wheel He turned over the bus It exploded and killed 15 And the driver is still in danger...

The song, distributed on cassette, starts with an announcer saying that "the Palestinian people and its leadership denounce any incident that hurts civilians and children. The bus incident was the act of an individual... but as long as the number of your crimes increases, the reactions will be stronger."

The melody is that of a popular wedding song among Gazans and Neger Bedouins. The song was reportedly written by Nuseirat residents. Speaking of the avenger, the song says: He denounced deportations Before the whole world; They called him a terrorist The dwarf has forgotten himself The Nazi must know Tomorrow the child will grow up... And take revenge. I challenge the world It's on them on our account... And my account will grow bigger."

Lacking form, shape

To the Editor:

REGARDING the poem or whatever it is supposed to be, "Ode to Lebanon," I protest in earnest, for this poem is certainly not within the confines of a poem.

Poems, like all art must have definite form and shape. Even abstract art has some kind of form, but Pauline Sweiss's poem is not art, is grammatically incorrect and has no shape even for free verse.

Pauline's sentences have poor and incorrect structure and her meanings are lost and incoherent. Poetry is a beautiful art and should please not only the artist or poet himself, but all who read it.

I am wondering who proof-read such a poem and why it was decided to be published. I sent you a poem, "The War Mangers"

which was accepted by three different anthologies and also won a poetry award in the United States.

Perhaps you published Ms. Sweiss's poem in preference to mine because she is a personal friend of someone on your newspaper staff, but you certainly couldn't have published it because you thought it was an item of beauty and would inspire your readers. Quite the opposite, for weak and poorly written articles inspire no one and weaken the whole newspaper.

Yes, the situation in Lebanon is tragic and we all hope for peace. But whatever the feelings, hopes and prayers, art still remains art and Ms. Sweiss's poem does not conform to any standard of art worth reading.

E. Yaghi
Amman

Vietnamese soldiers happy to be home, worried about future

By John Pomfret
The Associated Press

MOC BAI, Vietnam — Ten years ago, Linh Trang was one of the first Vietnamese soldiers to enter Cambodia in a surprise invasion that toppled the Khmer Rouge government in Phnom Penh.

"It was hell in Cambodia, 10 years of it," said Trang, 33, who commanded a battalion in the guerrilla-infested jungles of western Cambodia. "I'm just glad to be going home."

On Sept. 26 morning, Trang and 10,000 other Vietnamese troops returned to their homeland through the gates of this sleepy border town.

All along the border, Vietnamese soldiers are arriving in what the Hanoi government says is the withdrawal of its last 26,000 troops in Cambodia.

Returning by ship, ferry, truck and on foot, the soldiers faced a hero's welcome, but an uncertain future after that.

Like many of his comrades, Trang was stricken by malaria during the war. He also said he's lost 7 kilograms, a big weight loss for someone already slightly built.

But he said his health problems don't concern him. What is important now is to find a job.

Last week, the chief spokesman of the Vietnamese defence ministry said Vietnam would demobilise an unspecified number of soldiers.

Major-Gen. Nguyen Van Thai said returning veterans would be given preference in finding work and economic assistance if they had difficulties.

But many wonder whether Vietnam, which is one of the poorest countries in Asia and already faces an unemployment crisis, will be able to provide jobs for the returning soldiers.

"I am not a young man," said Trang, "so I don't think I can return to school. I want to work in textiles, maybe as a tailor. Before I entered the army I was a tailor in Ho Chi Minh City."

Still, he said, nothing had been settled. Luon Van Dang is a little more sure about what he wants to do, but just as worried.

The 23-year-old from Can Tho province says he will try to stay in the armed forces, his home for the last 5 years.

"I like a soldier's life," he said as he squatted in the buffer zone between Cambodia and Vietnam.

"I lost my family during the Vietnam war so the army is my family. They feed me and clothe me. I believe in them."

Dang said he hoped he was not demobilised.

"My officers know I love the Vietnamese army," he said, "but after I walk through the gate to my country over there everything could change."

Some soldiers even said they will miss Cambodia. Earlier last week, at a goodbye ceremony at Pursat, a provincial Cambodian capital, Cao Viet sat weeping in the corner as he hugged a Cambodian brother-in-arms.

"We are very close to the people in the countryside," said the Vietnamese officer who spent six years in Cambodia and speaks good Khmer. "We did for these people and they knew it."

U.S. drops contras

By George Gedda
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Central America's shifting political landscape has produced a more tolerant U.S. attitude towards Nicaragua's leftist government and deepening hostility towards some contra rebels, according to U.S. and rebel sources.

The changed attitude towards the Sandinista government has been subtle compared with the mutual recriminations and finger-pointing that now characterise the relationship between the State Department and some elements of Nicaragua's exiled opposition.

By de-emphasising military pressure against the Sandinistas, the United States has moved away from the confrontational policies of the Ronald Reagan White House and is now pursuing peaceful but guarded coexistence.

The shift has embittered some contras. "No one in the resistance trusts the State Department," says Bosco Matamoros, a rebel spokesman who is closely allied with veteran contra leader Adolfo Calero.

Calero was once a regular visitor to the White House and the State Department during the Reagan years but nowadays is treated almost as an outcast by the administration of President George Bush.

Matamoros maintains that the State Department has refused even to answer rebel correspondence while abandoning the Reagan administration policy of avoiding all substantive contact with Sandinista leaders. When a congressional delegation met recently with President Daniel Ortega, a top State Department official participated.

Amid the ongoing debate over when the contras should disband,

Matamoros said the State Department "seems more interested than the Sandinistas in demobilising the resistance."

One continuing source of concern for the administration is Soviet bloc military aid for the Sandinistas, estimated by U.S. sources at \$350 million for the first eight months of this year.

The administration view is that the contra leadership mantle has passed from Miami-based civilians to battle-hardened contra field commanders who have risen through the ranks and are far more qualified to represent the armed opposition to the Sandinistas.

Officials talk disdainfully of the U.S. taxpayer-financed contra bureaucracy which has operated for years in Miami. Matamoros accused State Department officials of grossly exaggerating the size of the contras' paid staff.

By turning its back on contra civilian leaders who have refused to return to the region and by favouring the emerging military commanders within the resistance, Matamoros says the Bush administration is tacitly advocating a military coup despite its stated preference for civilian supremacy.

The administration's twin objectives for Nicaragua are to support the internal opposition there as the country gears up for national elections and to keep the armed resistance intact until after the Feb. 25 balloting.

The bulk of the rebel force is based at camps along the Honduran border, living off U.S.-supplied humanitarian assistance.

Central American presidents have called for the demobilisation of the rebels by Dec. 5 but the Bush administration regards that deadline as irrelevant because the presidents also said that any such process must be voluntary.

SEPT / SEPT

Entrée dans la guerre ou véritable processus de paix, le cessez-le-feu proclamé samedi après-midi au LIBAN par l'émissaire du trépas à finalement été respecté depuis quatre jours malgré quelques tirs et «bavures» sporadiques. Beyrouth, dont l'aéroport a été réouvert dimanche après 197 jours de fermeture, a retrouvé en ce début de semaine une atmosphère de calme relatif et d'animation fébrile dans les rues et sur les plages, prises d'assaut par des clients avides de liberté. S'accrochant à l'espoir d'une trêve durable, après six mois de cauchemar, quelque 300.000 Beyrouthins avaient regagné lundi soir la capitale, que leur exode avait transformée en ville fantôme. Le même jour, Lakhdar Ibrahim a lancé le volet politique du plan arabe, accepté en principe par tous les belligérants y compris le général Aoun, en annonçant une réunion des députés libanais samedi prochain en Arabie Saoudite. Sur les 73 des 99 représentants élus de 1972 et toujours en fonction, une soixantaine avait déjà accepté de prendre part au débat sur un «document d'entente nationale», selon le président du Parlement, Hussein Husseini. Débat purement «consultatif» et sans pouvoir constitutionnel qui devrait précéder, d'après le plan de la Ligue arabe, une convocation de la Chambre à Beyrouth. Le «document» proposé par le trépas prévoit notamment l'élection d'un président de la République (dont le pays est privé depuis un an) et des réformes de la constitution permettant un rééquilibrage du pouvoir politique en faveur des communautés musulmanes. Bien que le camp chrétien reste sur ses gardes et demande toujours le retrait total des troupes syriennes pour engager une négociation de fond, les résultats obtenus par les pays arabes ont été salués en particulier par le retour du porte-avions français «Foch» en rade de Toulon. Le bâtiment de la marine nationale avait été envoyé en mission par Paris au large du Liban le 19 août avec d'autres navires de guerre. «Le gouvernement [français] a décidé ce retrait afin de laisser à la mission arabe toutes ses chances d'aboutir», a déclaré lundi le commandant de l'escadre française en Méditerranée. Le président Mitterrand a pour sa part lancé le soir même un nouvel appel à la recherche d'une solution au «drame libanais», estimant que «nul ne peut se résigner à l'éclatement et à l'asservissement» de ce pays. Un tel cas de figure serait, a-t-il ajouté, «une faute politique aux conséquences lourdes pour le monde entier». Une déclaration prononcée à l'occasion de la visite officielle à Paris de l'émir du Koweït, cheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah et qui sonne comme une mise en garde contre toute «faiblesse» à l'égard de la Syrie dans le processus de paix. (Avec agences).

EN BREF

Emplois-journées. Une centaine de salariés de l'hôpital universitaire de Jordanie étaient toujours hospitalisés hier après avoir été victimes dimanche d'une intoxication alimentaire. Selon le directeur adjoint de l'établissement, les troubles constatés seraient dus à l'absorption de nourriture mal conservée et n'auraient provoqué aucune complication inquiétante chez les patients. Par ailleurs, 95 personnes ont été appréhendées et 14 magasins fermés dans le pays après la découverte d'une trafic de graisse dissimulée dans des camions de vidange des égouts. Des tests sont actuellement en cours au ministère de la Santé pour évaluer la toxicité de la marchandise écoulée sur le marché depuis la mi-septembre.

Transferts de fonds. Le ministre des Finances, Bassel Jandaneh, a estimé le week-end dernier que le montant des transferts de fonds des émigrés jordaniens en 1989 pourrait atteindre 850 millions de dollars, après avoir dépassé le seuil des 900 millions de dollars en 1988. Les versements effectués par les quelque 350.000 émigrés du royaume, résident en majorité dans les pays du Golfe, constituent l'une des principales rentrées de devises du pays.

Union. Les dirigeants du Likoud et du Parti travailliste israélien ont provisoirement écarté lundi l'éventualité d'une rupture du cabinet d'union nationale, évoquée depuis une semaine en raison des divergences apparues entre les deux formations sur l'initiative de paix égyptienne. Bien que le parti de M. Shamir refuse systématiquement le plan Mubarak, les travaillistes estiment que «la solution n'est pas dans une crise gouvernementale mais dans la recherche d'un moyen de rencontrer les Palestiniens afin d'organiser des élections dans les territoires occupés».

DC 10... La justice française a demandé lundi au service national de contre-espionnage, la DST, de participer à l'enquête ouverte après la destruction en plein vol le 19 septembre d'un DC 10 de la compagnie UTA au dessus du Niger. Paris penche en effet pour l'hypothèse de l'attentat après que le décapage des boîtes noires de l'appareil a établi qu'une «explosion brutale» s'était produite en plein vol. L'accident avait fait 171 victimes.

...Et terrorisme. Paris a par ailleurs déposé un projet de résolution condamnant les «actes criminels d'intervention illicite» contre les avions civils en cours de la 27e assemblée triennale de l'Organisation de l'aviation civile internationale (OACI), réunie à Montréal. Enfin des spécialistes du terrorisme, venus d'une vingtaine de pays victimes d'attentats, participent les 30 et 31 octobre à une conférence intitulée «des citoyens face aux attentats» et organisée dans la capitale française.

Proposition. Le patron de la société Yves Saint-Laurent et président du conseil d'administration des théâtres de l'opéra de Paris a lancé mardi une pétition demandant que le prochain prix Nobel de la paix soit attribué «à la population de Pékin». L'année 1989 a été avant tout l'année de la répression en Chine. C'est une date par conséquent qu'on ne peut laisser passer, a notamment déclaré Pierre Berger pour expliquer sa démarche.

Avertissement. Le comité intermédiaire du Fonds monétaire international (FMI) a adressé en début de semaine un sévère avertissement aux pays, qui ont des arriérés de paiements de leur dette au FMI. Pour la première fois, l'organisation a émis une possible exclusion de ceux qui refusent de coopérer. Dans un premier temps, le fonds ne leur versera plus d'assistance technique et leur interdira de participer à l'augmentation des quotas-part, a déclaré lundi à Washington le directeur général du FMI, Michel Camdessus.

Dépendance. Pris entre une démographie galopante et la baisse de sa production agricole, le monde arabe devra importer 65% de ses besoins alimentaires en l'an 2000, soit 4 fois plus qu'aujourd'hui. C'est ce qu'estiment des experts réunis à Damas cette semaine dans le cadre du 2e congrès des parlementaires arabes pour la population et le développement. Selon eux, les pays de la région auront 300 millions de bouches à nourrir à la fin du siècle contre 210 millions l'année dernière. Or la croissance de la production agricole (2,5% par an), ne suffit pas à faire face à une augmentation de consommation de produits alimentaires estimée à 6% par an en moyenne.

Ozone. L'assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe (23 pays) a demandé lundi à Strasbourg la création d'un «Fonds pour le climat mondial», destiné à aider les pays du tiers monde à s'adapter aux réglementations internationales en matière de protection de la couche d'ozone. Dans une résolution adoptée à l'unanimité des députés présents, l'assemblée des 23 a invité tous les états membres à appliquer des «dispositions plus sévères» contre les émissions polluantes des véhicules et à mettre en place de nouvelles politiques de transports.

Dance. Le Jeune Ballet de France (JBF) effectuera en mai et juin prochains une tournée en Jordanie, Irak, Syrie, Egypte et Turquie sous la conduite de son nouveau maître de ballet, Jean-Claude Ciappara. Un voyage qui interviendra après une série de déplacements en Afrique et dans l'Océan Indien en février.

Alexandrie. Le bureau d'architecture norvégien «Snøhita architecture landscape» a remporté lundi le concours international lancé au début de l'année pour la reconstruction de la bibliothèque d'Alexandrie. 15 projets avaient été soumis au jury, composé de 9 architectes et bibliothécaires.

Il draine les acteurs, les réalisateurs et les producteurs

Doublage des dessins animés: le boum

**Elles sont trois:
deux grosses maisons de production
et une petite société
à se partager le marché
du doublage des dessins animés
en Jordanie.
Un secteur en plein boum
depuis 3 ans,
qui fait peu à peu
du royaume hachémite
l'une des principales plaques tournantes
du circuit de distribution
des séries japonaises
dans l'ensemble du monde arabe,
et en premier lieu
à destination de l'Arabie Saoudite.**

Il s'y sont tous mis. Face à la demande croissante des télévisions arabes et l'envahissement du petit écran par les dessins animés, les producteurs, les réalisateurs et les acteurs jordaniens se sont lancés dans le doublage. Né en 1982 dans le royaume, ce dernier n'a guère tardé à s'imposer dans les studios d'enregistrement. Depuis 3 ans, le phénomène s'est encore accentué, au point de devenir un travail à plein temps pour nombre de professionnels.

En 1988, le doublage ne représentait que 25% de notre activité, remarque Suhail Elias, patron de «Near East Productions» (NEP), l'une des deux grandes maisons de production audiovisuelle d'Amman. Cette année, il en occupera 60%. Les raisons d'une telle fulgurance? «C'est en Jordanie qu'on trouve aujourd'hui le plus d'acteurs maîtrisant l'arabe classique et qui offrent autant de voix audibles dans l'ensemble du monde arabe», affirme Suhail Elias, qui en 20 ans de cinéma et de télévision, a assisté à toutes les phases de cette irrésistible ascension. «Il se trouve également que nous avons acquis un savoir faire qui nous vaut maintenant des commandes de l'Egypte, un pays jusqu'à présent leader dans le domaine de l'image».

Le gain-pain des acteurs

D'un rendement nettement supérieur, les nouvelles techniques de doublage nécessitent cependant un long travail de préparation puis de répétition en studio, confié à une poignée de réalisateurs jordaniens dont les maisons de production se sont attachées les services. «La plupart des scripts nous parviennent en anglais, explique Mousa Ammar, qui depuis 3 ans a déjà adapté 20 séries pour Arab Tele Media, principal concurrent de NEP. «Après 4 ans d'études de comédien et de mettre en scène au Caire et 4 autres années d'expériences dans des feuilletons radiophoniques et télévisés, Nasser a cependant accepté de se



Seul moyen de survie pour certains acteurs, le doublage exige souvent 10 heures de présence continue en studio (à gauche). Copie de cassette à Near East Productions, dont 16 pays arabes sont aujourd'hui les clients (à droite).

Dans un premier temps, nous les faisons traduire. Ensuite il faut réécrire les passages où le texte arabe ne s'ajuste pas aux mouvements de lèvres des personnages. Ce n'est qu'une fois ce travail minutieux terminé que peut commencer le doublage en studio».

Studio aux portes duquel se presse une foule impressionnante de professionnels en mal de tournage et de nouveaux venus. A NEP comme à ATM, chacun aura l'occasion de faire un essai, sous l'œil des réalisateurs à la recherche d'incarnations de personnages. «Nous avons plus de 200 voix utilisables pour nos commandes», clame Suhail Elias.

«Banc d'essai abandonné très vite», affirme Nasser Ammar, qui depuis 1982 passe l'essentiel de ses journées derrière les micros. Le doublage demande des qualités d'acteur, un répertoire de 5 voix minimum, une attention soutenue à l'image qui défie sur l'écran, une parfaite maîtrise de la grammaire arabe et beaucoup de patience, puisqu'un reste en moyenne 12 heures par jour».

Après 4 ans d'études de comédien et de mettre en scène au Caire et 4 autres années d'expériences dans des feuilletons radiophoniques et télévisés, Nasser a cependant accepté de se

Quantité ou qualité?

NEP et ATM se montrent beaucoup plus discrètes sur les profits que leur procure ce nouveau créneau audiovisuel. «L'autant plus rentable que les deux compagnies achètent presque exclusivement leurs séries au Japon, leader mondial du dessin animé. Des 312 épisodes déjà doublés par NEP, plus de 80% sont d'origine japonaise. C'est ce qui se fait de moins cher», explique Suhail Elias, en montrant du doigt la cassette de «Lady Lady», qu'un technicien de sa société achève de copier pour les Emirats.

«Nous avons également acheté deux séries néerlandaise et espagnole cette année au festival de

télévision de Monte-Carlo, pour suit-il. Mais les factures défilent toute concurrence. Les Français, notamment, vendent à prix d'or et ne se rendent pas compte de l'étroitesse de notre marché». Un argument que reconnaît Mustafa Abou Ali, dont la société de production, «Bissan Audiovisual Company» (BAC), créée en 1987, est la dernière née en Jordanie. «Le prix moyen d'un épisode japonais tourne autour de 1.200 dollars. En Europe, c'est 30% plus cher».

Le patron de BAC regrette néanmoins l'hégémonie des séries japonaises. Cinéaste palestinien, converti «momentanément» en producteur de «cartoons», Mustafa Abou Ali préfère la qualité à la quantité. «Je n'ai doublé que deux dessins animés en un an, dit-il. Le premier est allemand et le second, «Il était une fois la vie», est une émission scientifique coproduite par la France, le Canada et de nombreux pays européens. Je les ai choisis pour leur contenu et la qualité du dessin».

Pris dans l'engrenage de la rentabilité, NEP et ATM, attachent bien moins d'importance à de tels critères. Même si, en tant que réalisateur, Mousa Ammar avoue avoir préféré le doublage

de «Caliméro» à tous les autres et se dit «heureux» de commencer samedi celui de «L'Aventure du corps humain», produit en Europe et acheté par ATM.

Mousa Ammar et Mustafa Abou Ali évitent tout autant de couper les films pour pouvoir les vendre dans le Golfe et principalement en Arabie Saoudite, premier client du monde arabe. «On doit supprimer les croix, toute évocation de maternité ou de sexualité», explique le premier. «Mieux vaut changer le script et faire dire à un personnage que le liquide rouge dans le verre est du jus de raisin, plutôt que de supprimer la scène», assure le deuxième.

Les trois sociétés affirment en tout cas ne pas vouloir se laisser dépasser par le torrent du doublage. En avançant des raisons bien différentes cependant: «Nous ne dépasserons pas le seuil que nous avons atteint cette année pour ne pas devenir des machines», prévient Suhail Elias, qui tient à garder un espace pour la création de dramatiques télévisées; «Je préfère refuser une proposition que de donner n'importe quoi en pâture aux enfants», clame pour sa part Mustafa Abou Ali.

Alain Renon.

Quatre Alsaciennes à l'université du Yarmouk

Un mois de grand bain linguistique

Quatre jeunes étudiantes de Strasbourg achèvent dimanche un stage linguistique d'un mois à l'université du Yarmouk. Agées de 21 à 23 ans, titulaires d'un diplôme de secrétariat trilingue, elles ont depuis longtemps la passion de la langue arabe.



Pintôt satisfaites. Installées depuis le début du mois sur le campus de l'université du Yarmouk à Irbid, Saïda, Myriam, Christel et Haldia ont le sourire. Leur stage linguistique de fin d'études, qui s'achève dimanche, leur a manifestement procuré ce qu'elles en attendaient.

«Nous avons eu trois heures de cours chaque jour, rencontré une multitude de gens, pu parler et entendre la langue. C'était ce que nous voulions», clament-elles unanimes. Plus encore: au terme de leurs deux années d'études de secrétariat au lycée René Cassin de Strasbourg, ce stage leur a permis de s'immerger dans une société arabe et de «sentir la langue dans son milieu».

Une langue pour laquelle elles éprouvent, depuis longtemps déjà, une véritable passion. «Nous avons chacune entre sept et onze ans d'arabe derrière nous». Pour Saïda, d'origine marocaine, Myriam et Haldia, dont les parents sont algériens, la fibre familiale n'est pas étrangère à un intérêt qui remonte au collège. Christel, pour sa part, a «la chance de tomber sur des professeurs qui (lui) ont fait aimer la langue».

Jamais dément, leur goût s'est trouvé conforté dans leur préparation d'un BTS (brevet de technicien supérieur) de secrétariat trilingue dans la capitale alsacienne. Leur lycée, établissement pilote en la matière, a inauguré en 1985 une option en arabe.

«L'idée d'organiser un séjour en Jordanie a germé en 1986 avec notre professeur Samir Frahi, qui est originaire d'Aljoun», se souviennent-elles. Après le jumelage du lycée français avec

l'université du Yarmouk en 1987, le projet prenait véritablement corps en décembre dernier avec la venue dans le royaume du professeur du lycée Cassin, Yvonne Navas.

Les deux établissements décidaient alors d'organiser un premier échange d'étudiants pour l'été. Le voyage de jeunes Jordanien dans l'est de la France a dû être reporté entre temps au début de l'année prochaine. Encouragé par la municipalité de Strasbourg, cette initiative a également fait des quatre jeunes arabes les «ambassadrices» de leur ville.

«Nous sommes venues avec des livres et un film vidéo, que nous allons offrir aux universités de Jordanie et du Yarmouk, ainsi qu'au centre culturel français d'Amman», précisent-elles.

Dimanche, retour en France pour Christel et Haldia. Saïda et Myriam, elles, prendront le chemin de l'Institut français d'études arabes de Damas.

A.R.

25 ans sous un parasol

Ahmad Salem, écrivain public

La carrière des uns fait parfois le bonheur des autres. Le manque de fonctionnaires, mis au service du public pour mettre en boue et une forme demandée de passeports et autres requêtes officielles, a ainsi vu fleurir la profession d'écrivain public. Par nécessité. Un métier de «plein air» qu'Ahmad Salem exerce depuis déjà 25 ans.

Dans toutes les rues qui mènent au département des passeports près du premier cercle à Djebel Amman, s'étalent une multitude de parasols, de tables et de chaises, domaine des écrivains publics. Parmi eux, Ahmad Salem, 53 ans.

Fonctionnaire au ministère des Travaux Publics au début de sa carrière, Ahmad Salem a démissionné en apprenant sa mutation à Ma'an. Emigré en Arabie Saoudite pendant un an et demi, il a dû rentrer précipitamment au pays... et chercher un nouveau travail.

«Que faire quand on a à peine fini ses études élémentaires?», questionne-t-il. La réponse s'est imposée d'elle-même, via la famille. L'un de ses parents, déjà écrivain public, lui a proposé de travailler avec lui. Ahmad a accepté et a appris les ficelles du métier.

Le principe est simple: il faut écrire, à la commande, des lettres officielles et les timbrer, ou remplir des documents. Le «secret» de l'écrivain réside dans sa maîtrise des formules incontournables, que la grande majorité des gens ignore. «J'ai des clients de tous les milieux sociaux et de niveaux culturels très différents», souligne Ahmad Salem. L'ignorance du public pousse

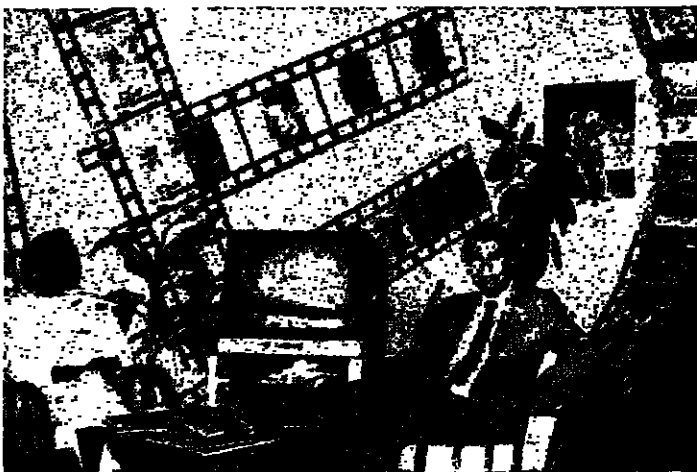


certain écrivains à abuser de leur situation de «passage obligé». Malgré un tarif fixé à 250 fils par document rédigé, ils réclament le double sinon le triple. Et arrivent à empocher jusqu'à 400 ou 500 dinars par mois. Ahmad Salem, lui, affirme ne pas dépasser les prix officiels. «Je gagne environ 120 dinars par mois». Ses revenus, assure-t-il, lui ont permis d'envoyer tous ses enfants au lycée et d'offrir des études supérieures à la plupart d'entre eux. Propriétaire de sa maison, dans la plaine de Baqa, il se dit satisfait de son métier. Même s'il lui faut travailler de 8 heures à 14 heures pour bien gagner sa vie. «Mes seuls jours de congés sont les jours fériés», ajoute-t-il.

Malgré un rythme de travail exigeant, Ahmad Salem ne se voit pas le moins du monde changer de profession. A l'instar de ses collègues, il est attaché à son indépendance et à son carré de bitume.

Saeed Khasli.

Télévision "Silence, on tourne"



Cinquante ans de cinéma français vont défilé sur le petit écran à partir de dimanche prochain. «Silence, on tourne», proposé par la deuxième chaîne dans le cadre du programme en langue française, se veut le reflet d'un demi-siècle de films clés, de chefs-d'œuvre signés Jean Renoir à Bertrand Tavernier. Un reflet fragmenté en 13 rendez-vous hebdomadaires d'un quart d'heure, dans un décor de studio de production. «Notre objectif est d'offrir l'éventail le plus large possible de l'histoire du septième art en France», précise Jean-Pierre Maury, initiateur de l'émission et responsable de la cellule audiovisuelle régionale d'Amman. Co-animé par Rahaf Badaro, speakerine francophone de la JTV, «Silence, on tourne» se présente sous la forme d'un dialogue illustré par une cinquantaine d'extraits de films. «J'ai puisé dans les 300 longs-métrages dont je dispose ici», poursuit «monsieur cinéma» du centre culturel français. Si le principe de la série reste avant tout chronologique, nombre d'épisodes se limitent à une œuvre, un auteur, un comédien... «Pour évoquer les années de guerre, j'ai choisi «Les Visiteurs du soir» de Carné, souligne Jean-Pierre Maury. Le réalisateur François Truffaut fait l'objet d'une émission entière. Même chose pour l'acteur Michel Simon». D'autres sont plus thématiques, comme les rendez-vous consacrés aux femmes cinéastes (dont Agnès Varda, Yannick Bellon et Diane Kurys) ou encore à la nouvelle vague. Réalisé par Mohammed Abdallah, «Silence, on tourne» sera prochainement doublé en arabe et diffusé sur la première chaîne à la fin de l'année.

A.R.

«Silence, on tourne», tous les dimanches à 19h15, à partir du 1er octobre sur la deuxième chaîne.

Mots croisés

par Florence Montell

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										

Horizontalement.

1: pour départager. 2: pronom personnel; lettre grecque. 3: réprouvé par la morale. 4: exprime. 5: pour le fil et les aiguilles. 6: refus anglais; interjection. 7: faute. 8: mesure; 100 m2. 9: spécialité; satellite de la Terre. 10: coupe le petit bois; époques.

Verticalement.

A: elles vivent à l'est du Rhin. B: sans le sou; tente. C: chapeaux à deux pointes. D: toujours. E: réprimande; article. F: fait partie des épreuves de gymnastique. G: copain; reçoit le bulletin de vote. H: peu; brûler. J: instruments de musique.

(Solution en bas de page)

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

Ragtime, de Miles Forman, avec James Olson, Mary Steenburgen, James Cagney, Pat O'Brien et Elisabeth McGovern. Les aventures d'une famille de la petite bourgeoisie provinciale d'une ville américaine, prise dans les grands tourbillons du début de ce siècle.

Centre américain, jeudi 28 septembre à 19h00 (en anglais).

Les Aventures de Pinocchio, avec Nino Manfredi, Gina Lollobrigida et Franco Franchi. Pour ceux qui ont aimé le conte de Carlo Collodi ou ne se lassent pas de revoir de merveilleux comédiens.

Saya Arts Centre, jeudi 28 septembre à 19h00.

Ciné-club. Séances respectivement à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 19h00 et 21h00. Lundi, dernière projection à 20h00 (nouveau film), ouverte aux membres du ciné-club.

Jeudi 28: Gums and the fury; Blazing saddles; Electric house; Meteor; Possession.

Vendredi 29: El Condor; Flash dance; Cabaret; West world; L'Ange de la vengeance.

Lundi 2: Hamburger Hill; L'Assassinat de Trotsky; The last; Hair; See no evil. Mercredi 3: Apocalypse now; Hitler, the last ten days; El metal jacket; Nicholas and Alexandra; Red.

Mercredi 4: Cuba; Winter kills; Domino principle; Sadate; March or die. Films en version originale. Tél 683991. Route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jérusalem puis première à gauche, environ 300 mètres.

TELEVISION

Silence, on tourne, réalisé par Mohammed Abdallah, animé par Rahaf Badaro et Jean-Pierre Maury. Première émission d'une série consacrée à l'histoire du cinéma français et illustrée par le film de Jean Renoir «Partie de campagne».

JTV, dimanche 1er octobre à 19h15.

Le Grand Echiquier, d'André Flé-dérick, présenté par Jacques Chancel. Invité du magazine: Jean-Claude Kilby, double champion du monde de ski en 1966, triple médaillé d'or aux Jeux Olympiques de 1968.

JTV, jeudi 28 septembre à 17h00.

Solution des mots croisés

Horizontalement.

1: arbitrage. 2: lui; mu. 3: licencieux. 4: énone. 5: mercurie. 6: no; ch. 7: erreur. 8: dose; arc. 9: ca; Lune. 10: serpe; ére.

Verticalement.

A: Allemandes. B: ruiné; osc. C: bicorne. D: encore. E: tance; le. F: cerceau. G: ami; urne. H: guère; réor. J: saxophones.

War, drought, bad administration combine to endanger Cambodia

By John Pomfret
The Associated Press

PURSAT, Cambodia—Ravaged by two decades of war and bloody revolution, some Cambodians are being squeezed by a drought expected to cut rice and fish cultivation by 25 per cent and threaten some areas with starvation.

And the apparent lack of local-level administration to distribute whatever scarce resources remain, and the prospects for this nation of 8 million appear even bleaker.

"If the war won't kill you, then you might die because of no water," said Treang Soon, a 37-year-old mother of four from Veal village in Pursat province, 150 kilometres from Phnom Penh. "And there is no government to help us along."

Interviews with peasants, government officials, teachers and Western aid officials in the provinces of Pursat and Kampong Chhnang painted a dark picture of Cambodia's future.

The country appears poised to slide into a new phase of civil conflict now that the Vietnamese, Cambodia's occupiers for the last decade, say they will withdraw the last of their troops soon.

Fighting between Cambodian government troops and guerrillas from the Khmer Rouge resistance group is already intensifying in

Battambang, northwest of Pursat. And a Western doctor in Pursat said his hospital has seen a two-fold increase in gunshot wounds over the past two months.

"Now we average about five a day," he said. "The Khmer Rouge are moving about very freely, and the peasants are scared."

The economy also is in deep trouble.

Fish cultivation and timber production have fallen in Pursat for two straight years. Due to the late and light rains this year, production of rice, the staple crop for the whole country, also is sure to fall.

Three decades of peace ended in Cambodia in 1970 when a military coup ousted King Norodom Sihanouk, dragging Cambodia into the Vietnam war. The Khmer Rouge took power in 1975, killing hundreds of thousands of people as they practised a radical brand of agrarian communism.

Vietnam invaded in December 1978 and installed a pro-Hanoi government in Phnom Penh. A resistance coalition led by Sihanouk has been battling the Vietnamese and Cambodian government troops.

The possible collapse of the economy does not bode well for the government, which is struggling

to meet the current civil war crisis. If the economy worsens, the government will lose legitimacy, making its battle against the resistance front that much harder.

But the biggest loser will be Cambodia's people.

The Muslim people of Ro Leap village used to take the half-day walk over palm-lined paths and verdant paddies to lake Tonle Sap to fish the bountiful waters. But bands of Khmer Rouge and the drought have made the risks outweigh the gains.

"We buy our fish now and only eat it on special occasions," said Ty Chouk, a 37-year-old farmer. "We used to fish every day."

Indeed, the catch in Pursat province fell 41 per cent between 1987 and 1988 to 4,120 metric tonnes, said Khang Heang, vice-chief of the provincial committee. A further drop in 1989 is expected, government officials said.

They still fish in nearby Veal village, but residents no longer wander into the forest near Ro Leap to cut hardwood timber and bamboo for their homes.

Land mines, placed by both the government and the Khmer Rouge, are a deadly hazard.

"The folks near the lake don't come up here anymore," Ty Chouk said. "Only we know where the government mines are because we laid them in the

ground. Other villages are too scared to risk their lives. Even we don't go into the high areas anymore. That belongs to the Pol Pot people (Khmer Rouge) and their mines."

Timber cultivation also fell in Pursat between 1987 and 1988, dropping 16 per cent to 5,000 cubic metres, the vice-chief said.

Another blow has been the bad weather this year. Scant rain pushed back rice planting from May until August, raising doubts as to whether the peasants around Pursat will be able to plant a second rice crop.

"My family will go hungry this year," Suon said. "We can't live only on coconuts and onions, we must have rice."

Government policy to forcibly conscript many young men has dealt a further blow to rice cultivation and all other agricultural pursuits.

San Poen, a 43-year-old father of four, had his two sons taken away by the military.

"They were rounded up after a movie show," he said. "It is good that they are serving the country, but I need them too to farm the fields. I had to drop some land this year and am farming less. So we will have too little to eat."

Khang Heang estimated that rice cultivation in Pursat would fall by 10 to 25 per cent.

Poor housing leads to death of Venice

By George Armstrong

DEATH IN VENICE last week was gloomily recorded in *Il Gazzettino*, the city's 103-year-old newspaper, with a banner headline exclaiming "Historic Centre: below 80,000!", referring to population loss as residents flee from the difficulties of living in the Italian lagoon city so adored by tourists.

Venice has lost more than half its population in the past 40 years. The death of another six residents and no births has brought the population down to 79,994, officials announced.

Many Venetians, particularly the young, have been leaving for

the mainland because of expensive food and housing and difficulties of transportation and recreation.

In the 1,000 years of the Venetian Republic that ended under Napoleon in 1797, the population hovered around 200,000, making it Europe's second or third city. In 1951, there were still 174,905 residents, in 1961 the figure was 137,710, and ten years later 108,426. Last year there were 472 births in Venice, and 1,256 deaths.

In surveys in Italy and other Community countries, Venice is judged among the top three most desirable places to dwell — by people who have not dwelt

therein. The basic problem is housing for young couples, and for all the people who hold the 58,000 jobs in Venice.

There is no housing shortage in the usual sense. Venice has 36,000 residential buildings with a total of 151,000 rooms, or more than two rooms for each resident.

The trouble is that ground-floor flats are often uninhabitable because of the frequent high waters (about 50 times a year), and because owners have not taken preventive measures to hold back the tides.

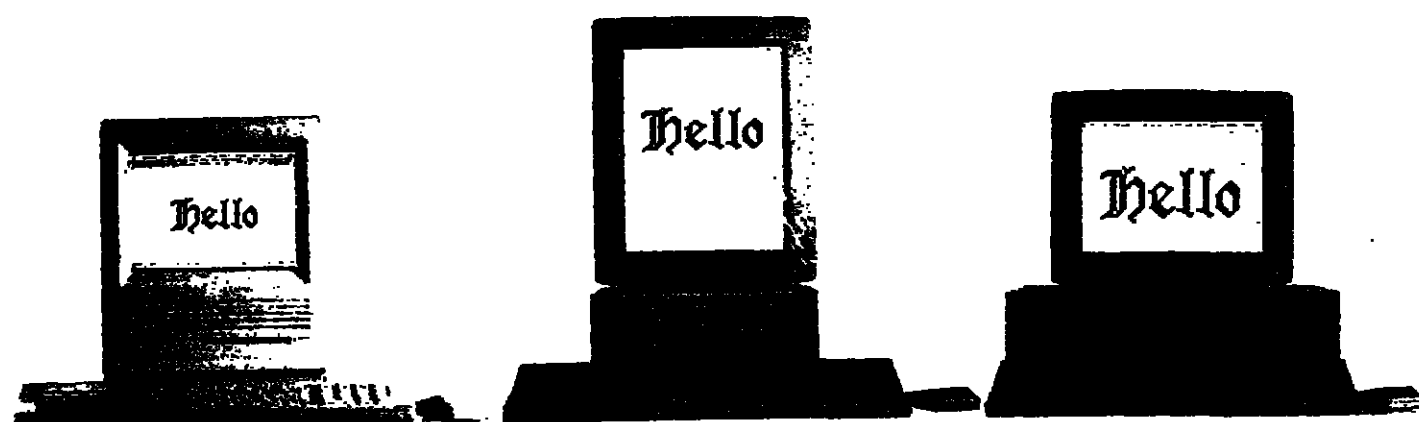
Parliament allocated Venice funds between 1984 and 1988 that

included money for the restoration of fair rent dwellings. Less than a fifth of the total was spent.

About 30 per cent of the people working in Venice must commute from several cities on the mainland. The water-bus system serving the Grand Canal offers an enchanting view to visitors, but is inadequate during the commuter rush hours.

The historic centre — which includes the Giudecca but not the other small islands in the lagoon — has 12,896 residents under 20, and 24,487 over 60, surely another world record, and a warning of a blighted future — *The Guardian*.

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From early childhood, music was a part of her life.

Ratiba El Hefni — born to music

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — She has sung before presidents and has been playing musical instruments since the age of 5; now she heads the new Cairo opera which was inaugurated last year.

Ratiba El Hefni was born into music. "It is hardly surprising I became a musician. One of my earliest childhood memories is of lying in bed at night before going to sleep and listening to the little intimate concert my parents used to give every night, with my father playing the flute and mother at the piano," she recalled in a recent interview.

This tall, slim, elegant woman in her late 50s has been called a superb soprano. But then musicality has been a family trait for several generations. Her father studied music and philosophy at Humboldt University in Berlin and her mother as born into a German family of musicians. The couple met in Berlin, married and later returned to Egypt with three daughters.

As a child, El Hefni, the youngest of the three, loved music but imagined herself as a nurse rather than the top-class opera singer she was to become. "The piano lessons I started at the age of 5 could have remained what they are to most people," she noted, "merely a part of education. But only a few months after I had started learning the scales, I had overtaken my sisters."

Impressed, her teachers decided that she should go to Cairo's Institute of Music. Reluctantly, because piano in such high doses was boring and tiring to her as a child, El Hefni complied. "Now I am very glad I did," she said, "because piano is what led me to singing."

This came about in an unexpected way. She had earned a scholarship to study the piano in Munich, but entrance to the German conservatory required that she study another discipline. "So I chose singing. My maternal grandmother had been a concert soprano, and I loved singing," she recalled that she was surprised at first when the teachers who auditioned her decided that singing should be her major subject and piano her minor. "I was delighted because singing opened

up whole new horizons and I liked the theatrical side of it," she recalled.

That idea of performing on stage may have been an added attraction for the young student, but it certainly did not appeal to her family. In those days it was considered socially unacceptable for a woman to perform in public. A singing career probably would have been impossible had it not been for a series of exceptional circumstances. It took no less than an intervention by the President of the Republic himself, Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Afro-Asian congress

El Hefni's career took off in 1956, when Cairo hosted the Afro-Asian Congress. A whole series of cultural performances had been planned, including a performance of "The Merry Widow," an opera by Hungarian composer Franz Lehár. Egypt's cultural Minister of the day, Sawwat Okasha, had been unable to find a suitable soprano in Egypt to sing the lead and was planning to give the part to a Lebanese singer.

"Meanwhile," says El Hefni, "I had been asked to give a 10-minute performance as part of all the other entertainments. I was reluctant to accept because I didn't much like the idea of singing to a public who was not used to Western classical music, but my teachers were so keen for me to do it that I finally agreed."

Little did she know that the president of the Republic, a music lover who enjoyed classical music as much as opera and operetta, would be attending that evening. Once her performance was over, the president asked whether a performer had been found for the "Merry Widow" part. When told that the part would go to a foreign singer, "the president apparently pointed to me and told the culture minister that I should sing the part," El Hefni said.

The following morning the minister telephoned to tell her that she had been chosen for the part. "That is when the trouble started with my family. First of all, my mother was against it, because as a classical music purist she considered that singing in an operetta was somehow degrading.

Meanwhile, my eldest sister, who had married a minister, felt it was below her status to have her sister go on stage. And then finally my husband — I was married, with a child — considered the 'Merry Widow,' with its love scenes, to be very forward."

Yet the culture minister wouldn't take no for an answer. He called her brother-in-law to say it was the president's wish that El Hefni should sing, and, with that hurdle out of the way, the next thing was to persuade her mother, who finally relented. "But then, there was my husband," El Hefni added. "He was adamant. The minister promised to have the more daring love scenes toned down to preserve peace in the family. But in a way, I must admit that (on that occasion) I willfully sacrificed my family life to further my career as a soprano."

No regrets

Later in life, El Hefni said she realised that she had to keep a proper perspective on the issue. "I should be there for her family also. She took care not to put her work first, before her children or her husband. 'I had offers of permanent contracts in Austria, Germany, France and Yugoslavia. But I always refused long-term engagements to preserve what was left of my family life. I would only accept temporary engagements, but I have never regretted the opportunities that I missed or turned down,'" she said.

Even though it did not bring her world fame, she found plenty of work in Egypt. Directing the new opera/culture complex which was built in Gezira thanks to a Japanese grant will occupy her fully for the months to come.

Before that El Hefni had produced music programmes on radio and television during her tenure as curator of the Higher Institute of Classical Arab Music in Cairo.

She explained that there was no contradiction between her Western classical music background and her responsibilities at the institute. "I had also studied Arab classical music, under the guidance of a prestigious master, the famous composer Mohamed El Assabgui. And I played the lute quite well, though I'm out of

practice now," she says with a smile.

When she assumed the leadership of the institute, it was a moribund organisation with only three classes, and it issued no diplomas. "I took care and organised that institute with a passion, and in a few years built it up to what it is now: a higher institute affiliated to the Arts Academy that now holds its place in the Arab cultural world," she notes.

Without resting on her laurels, the energetic El Hefni continued to further her musical education. She earned a doctoral degree, writing her thesis on the popular songs performed at wedding ceremonies in Fayoum, a large oasis some 120 kilometres west of Cairo.

During that period she was introducing the great masters of Western classical music to the Egyptian public through radio and television. She admits that she has never sung any of the great Egyptian classics. "I tried once or twice to sing Asian songs, but was never any good," she explained. "In Western classical music the voice comes from the head and chest, whereas the Asians use the throat and the sound is very different. In a way there is no real learning involved in Arab singing, it is all a question of practice. Take for example the extraordinary Oum Koulthoum (Egypt's legendary singer who is loved and admired throughout the Middle East). Had Oum Koulthoum exploited and cultivated her voice (in the Western fashion) and developed her natural talents, she would have become the Maria Callas of the Middle East. But regardless, she stands as a unique figure in the history of Arab music."

Sitting in her large, bright office decorated with paintings of some of the best contemporary Arab artists, this delicate, smiling woman seems not to feel the burden of responsibility thrust upon her. She has set for herself the task of making Cairo once again the music capital of the Middle East.

Judging from the tremendous success of the opera so far — every performance is fully booked and getting tickets can be a real feat — there is little doubt that she will succeed. — *World News Link*.

Deciphering the code of life

By Marjorie Shaffer
Reuter

NEW YORK — A squat, grey box will be the workhorse of a 15-year, \$3 billion project to unravel the entire genetic makeup of human beings — a task described as biology's equivalent of landing a man on the moon.

It's called a gene machine.

In the past few years gene machines have revolutionised the arduous task of deciphering the exact genetic sequence of DNA, molecules of which carry the genetic information necessary for the organisation and function of most living cells and control hereditary characteristics.

Gene machines are playing an indispensable role in the vast and ambitious genome project, a U.S. government plan to map out the human genetic code that is being organised by the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The NIH were given \$28 million to begin the project earlier this year and the Bush administration has asked Congress for \$100 million in 1990.

Part of the project will concentrate on gene sequencing, in which more than one billion dollars will be spent on defining the structure of all of the estimated 50,000 to 100,000 genes that collectively define human beings.



The other part of the project, gene mapping, will locate the genes along the network of the 46 chromosomes contained in every cell of the human body.

Once the map is known and each network defined, scientists will have a powerful aid to help prevent and treat more than 4,000 diseases caused by genetic defects.

Less than 2,000 genes have so far been mapped, and the entire catalogue will take at least 15 years to complete, scientists say.

It is a vast catalogue. In the human species, there are some three billion base pairs and many redundant sequences, as well as many that are not yet understood.

Some DNA pieces that now appear useless may one day prove priceless and cannot be discarded.

Gene machines produce the four chemical base sequences of snippets of DNA. In the early 1980s, it took two to three days to decipher a typical 400-base pair sequence of a piece of DNA, said biotechnology analyst Stuart Weisbrod.

Today up to 16 pieces of DNA can be "read" at one time in one day, with each piece yielding up to 400 bases.

But the amount of time it takes for the machine to read the sequences, which appear in four-colour, computer-generated bar graphs — one colour for each base — is still far too long and too expensive for something as big as the genome project.

Given the present technology, the genome project isn't practical," said John Mulvihill, who heads the NIH's medical genetics programme.

Researchers say the speed of gene sequencing will have to improve by as much as ten-fold to make the project workable.

Focus on People

Not the same

By Mariam M. Shaban

FOR THE LAST DECADE and a half *Tujan Faisal* has lobbied to uphold the rights of Jordanian women and children as they are declared in the constitution. When justice and the law conflicted she vigorously campaigned for justice. This week she talks to Focus on People about her long road to resolution.

Tujan Faisal, born and raised in Amman graduated from the University of Jordan in 1971 with a bachelors degree in English literature. After graduation, Tujan turned down an offer by Jordan Television to work as a programme announcer. "I told them I would not just sit in front of a camera and read things someone else had written as if I was a talking ornament," she recalls. After heated discussions with the JTV officials, Tujan was assigned a panel programme in which books that she chose were discussed by the participants. She recalls that her audience was much more diversified than had been expected. When asked by a television interviewer about her favourite television programme, an illiterate village woman in the Jordanian countryside rated Tujan's show as her second favourite programme.

Tujan continued with JTV and was later assigned a programme exposing certain social problems in the Kingdom. The programme called "Spotlight" ventured to highlight the problems that face various sectors of the society. Tujan recalls two particular episodes that had particular effect. They dealt with the social, economical and psychological problems facing the retired in the society. Highlighting the problems of pensioners on national television led to more concerted efforts for the betterment of this ever-growing community.

Another episode that Tujan thought gave insight to educationalists and parents alike was one that exposed children who "skip school." Why children skipped school turned out to be a subject that in addition to being informative was also embarrassing to both parents and teachers.

The school-skipping episode was followed by a 14-part programme on children. "In the 1970's we did not have summer schools and summer camps and all these activities in which children could participate. Children were playing in the streets and I wanted to highlight that," Tujan recalls.

The famous 14 episodes, highlighted many children's issues, not just free time in summer. They focused on the difference in the upbringing of girls and boys, and among other things psychological effects of parents' divorce on children. At one point some of the episodes coincided with the 1979 Year of the Child. Tujan remembers that at the "time, the children's programmes were highlighted a great deal because the United Nations had made 1979 the Year of the Child... and people were 'getting into' the subject. I remember how sad it was because people had needed the U.N. to make children's issues a subject for their thought. Children don't wait around to become a prominent issue. In a country such as Jordan, where over half the population are children, they should always be afforded a prominent place in social programmes, private enterprises and national planning."

Through open debates in the media, Tujan had already begun to ruffle quite a few feathers in her attempt to bring about some new social reforms to the welfare of children, the old and the retired. But her biggest battle was yet to come. It began when she started her crusade for women rights.

In her capacity as a member of the Arab Universities Women Graduate Club, Tujan had been instrumental in the preparation and organisation of over half a dozen lectures and seminars in the Kingdom over the last decade.

The topics, although varied, consistently dealt with the rights of women and children. Her themes drew attack from certain clerics in the Kingdom who labelled her everything from destructive, perverse, to subversive and apostate. She was accused of promoting the break-up of the institution of the family, encouraging adultery as well as child delinquency.

"I remember we had organised a seminar, with the participation of delegations from Iraq, Tunisia and the Arab League in 1984 about the intricacies of a legal minimum age for marriage, child custody in case of parental divorce, the right of a divorced woman to demand alimony in certain cases and the right of a man to take a second wife without divorcing the first one. We wanted to discuss these issues and compare solutions to some of the different obstacles that we were all facing as women in the Arab World," Tujan recalls.

The seminar was scheduled to open on a Saturday morning. On the Friday before, speeches in mosques all over Amman were made condemning me by name, accusing me of being subversive and destructive to the holy institutions of the society. Certain people had obviously gotten an incorrect idea of what was going to be discussed at our seminar since none of the things discussed were contrary to the Koran, nor the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed. On Saturday morning I opened the newspapers and was shocked to see that clerics were raving on about me even in our press. They had not even bothered to listen before they condemned. Neither the press nor speakers in the mosque addressed any specific issue that was on the seminar's agenda. I personally was the subject attacked, "how can a woman from west Amman speak about Islam?" they asked. They raved on about my intentions "to destroy the morality of a pure and clean society with my talk of women's rights."

The seminar took place with members of the religious community attending. One sheikh in particular, came up to me after the seminar and told me what a great job our club had done... even if only in a small way I felt vindicated."

Tujan continued her research on social and legal problems facing the society. Sometimes the chosen topics were discussed on TV by the panel she hosted. Many of the topics were controversial and sensitive: child abuse, criminal law vis-a-vis women, women in times of war, the passport issue. The more sensitive the subject the less likely its discussion in the media became—especially on television.

The passport issue however, is one issue that has been pursued vigorously, if to date unsuccessfully.

According to Jordan's passport law a Jordanian woman must obtain a written permission from her husband to obtain a passport. If he so wishes a husband may register his wife in his passport along with his children who are under 18 years of age. Furthermore, it is common practice that a woman's name is changed when she marries to her husband's name. Tujan points out that the law does not support this common practice but it has nevertheless become a common practice. Furthermore, common practice has on many occasions allowed for the continued dependency of divorcees and widows. If a divorced woman is registered in the passport to her ex-husband, she needs his permission to travel although she is no longer his wife.

"It is also common practice that after a woman is divorced or widowed her passport will identify her as the ex-wife or widow of so and so. Therefore, effectively stripping her of an identity of her own," Tujan points out.

"How can a woman be considered an equal citizen if she needs a man to guarantee her right to a passport?" Tujan asks. While some of the points such as the ones pertaining to the passport law "directly conflict with Jordan's citizenship law—which allows for the right of a passport to every Jordanian citizen, others are matters of common practice which must be checked and corrected by our governing forces. Still other common practices are directly against the sharia—Islamic law." On several occasions Tujan has made attempts to change the law and encourage government interference on common practices by presenting petitions to the last Jordanian parliament as well as to government ministries...but to no avail. "Now after we made a big row about it, some of the common practices have ceased to be as frequent as before, but it still depends on the willingness of the particular employee and the knowledge of the woman applying for her passport about her rights," Tujan says.

Although she admits that fighting for social and legal reforms is not always an easy task, looking at her three children she says "this is not a question of women wanting to become like men or becoming their superiors, it is simply a question of having equal rights... for our sake and for theirs."



The stones of the intifada

Casting the first stone

Most Israelis are ready enough to defend their country against invasion but soldiers are increasingly torn over suppressing a popular uprising. David Langsam, himself Jewish, took the unusual—and dangerous—step of living among Palestinians in the villages of the occupied West Bank while his nephew, Jerome ben Shlomo, was patrolling the same area with the Israeli army. Jerome, who first visited Israel on holiday after leaving Westminster School, now lives in the country as a new immigrant, an "oleh chadash." Last year he completed his full 30-month term in the Israeli army as a first sergeant in the tank corps serving in the "security zone" and on the Golan Heights. He had had no experience of the Palestinian villages of the West Bank until called up for 28 days "milui," annual military service this summer, around Kabatiya. It provided an unusual opportunity for David Langsam to compare the two sides of the intifada. This is his report.

KABATIYA, a village of about 18,000 people, 45 miles north of Jerusalem, was one of the first places in which a collaborator was executed, earning a 42-day curfew as a result. It is in hilly country on a main road linking many Arab towns and villages and Israeli settlements.

Soldiers watch Kabatiya from rooftop posts above the main street and from the house highest on the hill looking down on the village. Jeeps and troop carriers, bristling with M-16s, Galil automatic rifles, tear gas and rubber bullet launchers and machine guns, patrol the streets. Children throw stones and are sometimes fired on by soldiers.

At night the village is silent except for the baying of dogs, the pitter patter of little feet hanging Palestinian flags on electric wires and intermittent hisses, as masked youths spray political graffiti on the walls. It is a "normal" Palestinian village participating in the intifada, resisting Israeli occupation.

So far, 11 youths have been "martyred"—as the Palestinians describe intifada-related deaths—in Kabatiya. I stayed in the nearby village of Kufir Rai, where six children have been killed. Both villages are dependent on agriculture: stone fruits, olives and olive oil, figs, poultry and goats. The villages are poor and most food is locally produced.

About 50 soldiers are permanently in Kabatiya and when disturbances occur several hundred can be brought from the army base nearby.

Jerome and I had very different experiences, but, like most Palestinians and Israelis, we shared a common denominator of

fear. Jerome faced two fears. His first was that he or a comrade would be physically hurt (and one was) and the second fear was that he might do something to a Palestinian civilian that he would later regret (he didn't).

My fear was similar to the Palestinians, that of being caught in the wrong place by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), guilty or not. I arrived in Kufir Rai, just over seven miles from Kabatiya, hot, dusty and thirsty after travelling for several hours. A tray of refreshing mint tea was brought and the shabbat (literally "youths," but since the intifada, a second meaning of "activists" has evolved) explained that I had arrived at "an interesting time"—the previous night a collaborator had been killed—the first in Kufir Rai—and an Israeli raid, was imminent. Asked when the Israelis were likely to raid, the shabbat said "any time." As I raised the much desired glass of tea to my lips we heard a call that soldiers were coming. Twenty jeeps were approaching.

The boys threw my bags at me and we ran, literally, for the hills. I stopped one of the shabbat and told him I couldn't risk being caught with them. Shaking in panic, as boys whistled and women called out warnings directing the shabbat away from the soldiers, he gave me the name of a man I could stay with. I sprinted through olive groves, hurdling prickly pear and barbed wire fences as I ran, trying to remember the name and begging confused villagers for directions. I found the house and was led to a room from where we could watch the road and the village. As I took photographs I realised my racing pulse was due as much to

fear as the run through the fields. Israeli vehicles cruised through the village, stopping at several doors to ask boys to come out. But the shabbat—all 1,000 of them—had fled. Curfew was imposed and the village watched and waited in silence as Israeli soldiers searched some of the houses, confiscated microphones from the mosques (used to warn of the approaching Israelis) and shut down the village generators.

The sun setting in the haze and dust cast a tourism brochure rose tinge over the stone houses nestling in the hill, a surreal contrast to the harsh tension. It was the longest sleepless night of my life. I wondered whether Jerome was in raiding party.

Curiously, the Israelis—bristling with weapons—fear the unarmed Palestinians far more than vice versa. The tension in the West Bank and Gaza is much greater than 12 months ago despite (or because of) the massive IDF presence and it is clear that Israel does not occupy the territories. Israel occupies small settlements on some of the hills and for moments in time holds the roads between the settlements and the highways as convoys of workers' buses led by jeeps speed through Arab villages. The occupied territories are already Palestinian and every soldier I spoke to who has served there, regardless of political affiliation, agrees.

Israeli Rambo

The Palestinian resolve and the poor training for the occupying forces is a dangerous combination. Soldiers overreact because they don't know what to expect. Instead of being taught to stay calm under pressure, Jerome says his unit was "taught to be Rambo: how to kill someone using the butt of your weapon; how to rip their face open with your magazine; wonderful things that you are not normally taught as a soldier." His unit was divided into two groups to throw stones at each other to prove they don't really hurt, yet is the danger of stones that Israelis use to justify killing Palestinian children. Soldiers are allowed to open fire when their lives are threatened. One soldier said that being spat at by a Palestinian was life-threatening "because the Arab might have AIDS."

Within hours of arriving at his base near Kabatiya, Jerome was volunteered for patrol and had

his first dose of fear. "The first patrol was very scary. You have no idea what you are supposed to be doing there, what's expected of you. For me, to be an occupier, to see little three and four year olds bursting into tears and running to their mothers absolutely hysterical, just because you are there, was very depressing. These kids are going to be traumatised for the rest of their lives."

"It's a horrible feeling to be the oppressor—for someone who's been taught the IDF is the wonderful thinking army, the people's army—no less than the Germans were anywhere in Europe."

"The fear of a suspect being arrested at night is unbelievable. I was shocked at how scared they were. I felt as if I was with some South American death squad and that's certainly how they felt. The fear... they talk immediately. One of them was hardly out of his house and he had already started giving us names, addresses, everything. They are sure they are going to die or be disappeared."

The Israelis' fear in the territories is partly justified, but quite disproportionate. They face children with stones, not soldiers with guns. The numbers of Israelis killed and injured during the intifada is still relatively low and nearly as many have been hurt by their own side as by the Palestinians.

"Every day I've been hit by stones," says Jerome. "It's not a big deal. It hurts a bit. It's nothing to get angry about or worth killing or injuring some poor kid who is doing what he thinks is right. I'm not scared of stones. I'm scared of more organised things and luckily they're not very well organised, whereas we are. The one time they were organised, we were ambushed and my driver was injured. They knew we would be passing a crossroads late at night and we'd have to slow down."

"They hit us with a volley of rocks from an orange grove. We stopped and then they hit us with another volley and a rock hit my driver on the side of his face, smashed his glasses and glass went into his eye and cut his cheek. There was a lot of blood. We reacted automatically. We opened fire on the orange grove, with intent to kill... that was automatic. Later we went

back and no bodies or any blood was found, so we don't think anyone was injured."

"I'm very thankful that no-one got hurt from our fire, but being there... we were very scared. The jeep was hit by a lot of rocks. Our lives were definitely in danger."

There was only one other time when Jerome says he saw the justified use of live ammunition. Surrounded by stone throwing youths, an officer said he would shoot at one of the leaders rather than call for reinforcements. "He very calmly said, I'm going to injure him in the arm and they will stop." And they did.

"It was minimal use of force to stop what could have been a very ugly situation. If we'd called for backup, I'm sure there would have been a pitched battle."

"This place is like the Wild West. It's like playing a part in a Western movie and we're the bad guys. It's unbelievable. You are the law. You have the gun and the law is the gun. And we're not that kind of people. Most soldiers are not. Unfortunately there are those who enjoy it."

Another reservist, Ami Dar, wrote to the Jerusalem Post earlier this year that in 20 days on patrol in the "hot" Nablus Casbah his squad arrested a score of 'Palestinians, wounding several in the leg according to IDF instructions, but didn't kill anyone.

Jerome says his unit was able to catch 17 stone-throwers without one injury. Ami Dar asks whether the fatal injuries are caused because "our troops don't know how to shoot—or is it that some of them can shoot all too well?"

The humanitarian soldiers probably do act as a brake on their less caring comrades. But from the Palestinian point of view, Israeli soldiers are unpredictable violent. They don't see differences between IDF units, most of which have both hot-heads and humanitarians. Soldiers all wear the same uniform.

While Jerome had several positive encounters in Kabatiya, from an impromptu half-hour soccer match played in an alleyway (Palestine 6, Israel 0), to using a rubber bullet canister to shoot sweets to a group of four year olds, the Palestinians discount the events entirely. They only notice the continued and unwanted occupation.

"Here in the village we have no relations with the soldiers," said one Kabatiya villager. "There are

no soldiers considered as decent soldiers. Whenever we leave the house we have no feeling of security, because at any time a soldier might ask to check our identity card or (order us to) wipe the walls or (to) spend two days in the detention tent or be beaten."

"At the beginning of the intifada we were afraid of the soldiers, but now we know we have to resist... to do something against the occupation."

"Rabin is wrong that the large number of soldiers keeps the intifada down. The soldiers provoke the people and cause the clashes."

But Jerome's encounters with Palestinians are important. A lowly sergeant, he won a stand-up argument with a lieutenant-colonel who was arresting the wrong person (an argument Jerome says could only occur in the IDF) and an entire squad walked away from an officer who was victimising an intellectually impaired youth, forcing the officer to come running after his men. Even when asking Palestinians to remove flags Jerome says he was polite about it and in one case ended up having coffee and baklava with his "helper."

He says that as he left Kabatiya, after feeling relief that it was over, his first thoughts were that he had achieved his aim of not hurting anyone.

"Afterwards, on the way home, I thought that I'd helped. I had stopped several beatings that might have happened, stopped people shooting live ammunition—one or two guys that were hot-heads said, 'Let's shoot, this is getting dangerous' and I said 'No way. You're not going to while I'm here.' And it stopped them. It was enough to just calm them down and think about what they were doing, rather than go off the handle just because they'd been hit by a couple of stones."

He says he made the right decision to go rather than to refuse to serve. "I'm a soldier. I don't have any choice and also I am sure I stopped several Palestinians being injured and possibly even being killed. And even if I stop one being injured, it's enough."

While Jerome was on duty in the West Bank, 32 Palestinians were killed by the IDF and one by a settler—one of the highest monthly death tolls since the beginning of the intifada. The Guardian

Brain scans show signs of Alzheimer disease

By Malcolm Ritter
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A shrinkage in part of the brain may be an early sign of Alzheimer's disease that can be detected before the disease is diagnosed conventionally, a new study suggests.

If further research confirms the result, it may help doctors in diagnosing the disease before it becomes severe, researcher Mory Deleon said.

Another scientist agreed it may help in diagnosis, but said it is not a reliable enough sign for making a diagnosis by itself.

The work is reported in the last issue of the *Lancet*, a British medical journal, by Deleon and colleagues at the New York University Medical Center.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive condition that attacks the brain and impairs thinking, memory and behaviour. It affects an estimated 2.5 million adults. No cause or cure is known.

Researchers used a new procedure involving computerised tomography, an X-ray technique commonly called CT scanning, to study a portion of the brain called the hippocampus.

They examined 76 patients with mild to severe Alzheimer's, 27 with minimal age-related memory changes, and 72 normal volunteers, all with an average age in their early 70s.

Shrinkage in the hippocampus appeared in 87 per cent of the Alzheimer's group and 70 per cent of those with mild memory impairment, compared to 22 per cent of the normal volunteers. Researchers also followed 20 patients with mild memory impairment and 28 healthy people of similar ages. By three years later, 11 of the subjects were diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Ten of them had shown shrinkage in the hippocampus in the initial examination.

"Of the 37 people not diagnosed with Alzheimer's by three years later, only seven had shown the hippocampus abnormality. Researchers used a new procedure involving computerised tomography, an X-ray technique commonly called CT scanning, to study a portion of the brain called the hippocampus."

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U.S. marks 5 nations for debt cuts

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States Tuesday singled out Costa Rica, Venezuela, Morocco, Uruguay and Chile as active candidates for debt reduction under a plan announced earlier this year.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said the five countries have already begun work toward new financing packages under the U.S. debt reduction proposal, which bears his name.

"While reducing debt burdens has the emphasis of many, new financing is still important for many countries," Brady told the 152 governments in the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Brady proposed last March to give commercial banks a choice of reducing debts owed to them, reducing interest rates on them or lending new money to pay interest at the old rates.

Venezuela owed \$36.5 billion at the end of 1987, the last year for which full comparable figures are available. Venezuela had been asking that its debt be cut in half, but in recent days officials have been saying they would settle for a smaller cut.

Chile's debt was down to \$31.2 billion, in part because of its willingness to let banks use the money owed to them in dollars and other hard currencies to change it into Chilean money and use it to buy up property. Some

countries object to these "debt-equity swaps," saying they add to inflation.

Brady said debtor countries need more investment, and the return of capital their citizens have sent abroad.

"And debt-equity swaps offer debtor countries important vehicles to channel such resources into their economies," he added.

Morocco owed \$20.7 billion in 1987, Costa Rica \$4.7 billion and Uruguay \$4.2 billion. All have been negotiating with creditor banks. Reductions, or repayment delays, on money they owe to other governments are negotiated through the Paris Club.

Brady warned against either banks or debtor countries expecting too much.

"Excessive expectations can only promote delays, increase the risk of breakdown in negotiations and ultimately raise economic costs to the banks and debtor countries," he said.

He had another warning about the whole idea of debt reduction. "Debt reduction can not be seen as a cure-all for the economic problems of debtor countries," he went on.

"It can not assure economic prosperity. Rather, debt reduction is meaningful only if it supports the economic reforms that are the key to long-term sustained growth," he explained.

Mexico was showing the way forward. Since it clinched a deal in July with its commercial bank creditors to reduce part of its \$52.7 billion in medium- and long-term debt, \$2 billion of flight capital had returned and investors were pouring money into the country.

"The message is plain: The benefits to Mexico go well beyond the terms of the agreement," Brady said. "A cloud has been removed from Mexico's horizons, and the world knows it."

He told banks to pull their weight and lend to the Third World, but many banks have said they want to do the opposite.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said that commercial banks should support the Brady plan and said they needed to reaffirm their commitment to continued new lending.

"The banks should not think that reliance on their part will lead to a larger contribution from the multilateral organizations," he said.

But bankers' reactions to the Mexican package have shown that they want to cut the loans but

not put up any extra cash.

In comments on the sidelines of the IMF meeting, three West German banks have said they will not provide fresh money.

The most damning assessment came from West Germany's Commerzbank chief, Walter Seipp, who said: "I think we should lay the Brady plan aside and start something new."

Sir Kit McMahon, chairman of Britain's Midland Bank, criticized the Brady plan Tuesday, saying it was poorly prepared by the U.S. Treasury and banks were not generally willing to put up new money for Mexico.

In comments on the world economy, Camdessus praised industrial nations for taking a firm stand on inflation, but added: "The dangers have not been eliminated and until it is clear that inflation has abated, a firm anti-inflationary monetary policy is clearly essential."

It was essential that governments reduced budget deficits. "This task is particularly urgent in the United States where the private savings rate is now very low," he said.

Meanwhile, Brazil's finance minister has urged governments and private banks to forgive debts.

Finance Minister Nilsen Da Nobrega suggested to creditor governments that delaying repay-



Nicholas Brady

ments, as they often do through the Paris Club is not enough.

They should also make reductions, he said.

"Such action would serve as an effective demonstration to the commercial banks that governments are prepared to do what they are demanding from commercial banks," he said.

The World Bank estimated that last year about \$30 billion of Brazil's \$120 billion debt was owed to governments. In other countries, debts were in reverse proportion: Poland owes \$3 out of every \$4 in its \$42 billion debt to governments.

Some creditor countries have forgiven debts. West Germany has reduced the amount owed it by about \$4.5 billion in recent

years. President George Bush recently promised \$1 billion in debt reductions. But this has been done largely for the world's poorest countries, most of them in Africa.

Nobrega also made a bold proposal to private banks about how to deal with debts in the future. He suggested that official agreements be reached on how much debtor countries can pay and still make long-term progress in raising their citizens' low incomes.

Currently, governments must negotiate delays and reductions directly with banks.

"This approach has been tried for seven years," he said. "It has led debtors nowhere."

Japan announces \$300m human resource fund

WASHINGTON (R) — Japan announced Tuesday it would give the World Bank \$300 million over the next three years to train people in poor countries to help their nations develop.

"Japan is now prepared to contribute a total of about \$300 million... for a special fund in the bank," Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Japanese officials said the idea for the fund sprang from Hashimoto's experience in a post-war Japan that grew into an economic power, boosted by capable people.

Many Japanese educated abroad contributed greatly to the development, one official said, adding: "It was the people that

made Japan's economic development possible."

The special Fund for Policy and Human Resources Development is designed to provide technical assistance for developing countries and to help develop human resources that could take the responsibility for formulating and implementing development policy, the officials said.

"It is important that developing countries make their governments' administrative system more efficient and improve their capacity in formulation and implementation of their development policies," said an official.

The money will be provided over three years from April next year and details will be worked out in cooperation with the World Bank, they said.



Trading at Zurich's stock exchange

Swiss plan electronic bond trading in '91

ZURICH (R) — Switzerland's three major stock exchanges announced plans Tuesday to switch bond trading from exchange floors to computer screens in 1991.

If the project gets official approval, bond dealers in Zurich, Geneva and Basel will no longer go to the exchanges but will stay at their banks, transacting deals over their screens.

"We can't go on as we are now. We have capacity problems and must create space. We're bursting at the seams," Gian Pietro Rossetti, chairman of Association Tripartite Bourse (ATB), told a news conference.

The three exchanges, which set up ATB to coordinate technical projects, want to free more floor space for other business such as a growing trade in share warrants.

The electronic bond trading system (EBS), as the new bond trading set-up will be called, will come three years after the opening of the Swiss Options and Financial Futures Exchange (SOFFEX), the world's first fully-automated options trading and clearing system.

SOFFEX made news early last month when its computer system failed for several days, forcing dealers to return to conducting business by telephone.

The EBS will be developed at an estimated cost of 34.9 million Swiss francs (\$21.2 million). Approval is being sought from Cantonal bourse authorities, and member banks of the three exchanges will be asked to give a final go-ahead by the end of October.

Rossetti said a recent survey found only four of the 54 banks who replied opposed or had reservations about the project.

Reflecting known resistance from many banks to transferring share deals to screen trading, Rossetti predicted shares would still be traded on exchange floors at the end of the century.

Iran wages war on 'economic terrorists'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian authorities have broken up a gang of bullion smugglers, seizing 2,000 gold coins, as a radical Tehran daily called for intensifying a crackdown on "economic terrorists," the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Wednesday.

It was the second major gold seizure in Iran announced this week.

Officials said Tuesday that ten tons of gold worth \$115 million was seized in the southern Hormozgan province as it was about to be smuggled into neighboring Pakistan.

The seizures were announced amid a growing clamor for Iran's new president, Hashemi Rafsanjani, to take tough action against official corruption, profiteers and smugglers.

The radical Abrar daily Wednesday urged the government to crack down on "corrupt elements... and economic terrorists," saying "their crimes are no less than those of murderers."

It said in an editorial that if the 10 tons of gold had been smuggled into Pakistan, Iran's economy "would have been dealt an

irreparable blow."

It declared that "society is impatiently awaiting speedy action by officials against those who engage in such destructive activities." People are not irritated by economic bottlenecks, but by the plunderers. The black market and the capitalists have no other objective but to destroy the country's economy and double the people's suffering," Abrar declared.

It noted that the war with Iraq caused widespread economic problems that cannot be solved easily.

But the daily noted: "People demand that officials do not let profiteers benefit from the troubled market."

Rafsanjani earlier this month assigned a task force to root out corruption in all government departments. He ordered Interior Minister Abdollah Nouri, armed with wider powers of law enforcement than his predecessors, that the "fight against social corruption... receives top priority."

There have been no reports of the task force uncovering any major corruption yet.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Amick and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VOLEH

DUGIE

AFAIRS

TELPUT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER TO THE (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRAIN MOUTH DOUBLE HITTER

Answer: What the guy who was her "ideal" became after they got married—HER ORdeal.

30% of Czech industry is hopeless

PRAGUE (R) — About a third of Czechoslovak industry is hopeless, fit only to close down or completely overhaul, according to a government planning official.

But Jaromir Matejka, secretary of a committee for the planned management of the national economy, told Reuters in an interview he believed the country's industry could be reformed without losing jobs.

Matejka is spearheading

Czechoslovakia's attempts to revamp its heavily centralized economy without compromising on basic principles of communism.

He said the government's aim was to step in to deal with ailing industries before they went bankrupt although it could not guarantee that some would not go to the wall.

Asked how much of Czechoslovak industry could be considered hopeless, he replied: "It may well be up to 30 per cent."

Dinar seen in 'healthy state'

By Ghadeer Taber Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Following the successful rescheduling of Jordan's immediate foreign debt repayments to major creditors and the receipt by the Kingdom of substantial Arab aid, the Jordanian dinar is in a "healthy state," according to economists and analysts.

"There are various reasons to why the dinar has attained stability at a reasonable rate, and the situation does not hold out any immediate pitfalls," an economist told the Jordan Times Wednesday. These include a better balance in the supply and demand situation for foreign exchange and almost non-existent speculation against the Jordanian dinar.

The rescheduling of Jordan's debt repayments for the year 1989 and 1990 to the Paris Club of government lenders and the London Club of commercial creditors has contributed heavily to the dinar's position by improving the supply and demand position in the foreign exchange market.

According to Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh, Jordan has not only rescheduled its debt and interest repayments but will also post a surplus in its balance of payments for the year 1989.

"Now we have managed to reschedule \$700 million in debt repayments and interest for the year 1989 and we have received substantially higher Arab aid than the \$296 million we had expected," Jaradneh said last week. "The fundamentals of the Jordanian economy as they stand today are encouraging."

Economist Fehed Feneh also sounded a positive note. "Things are very normal, there is stability," he said. "There is a trend for a stronger stable dinar."

The dinar's stability has been the priority for the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) in the last three months. It implemented a policy of repeated market intervention at varying amounts at announced times as events warranted, and managed to raise the dinar's value against the dollar by almost 25 per cent since early August. It also managed to do away with a major part of the black market for dollars. And the country's foreign exchange reserves have been brought up to over \$500 million, from \$140 million in May.

The dinar hit an all-time low of 900/920 fils to the dollar in the black market in Amman in the last week of July, mainly as a result of speculation on the currency, according to analysts. But today these speculators are selling their dollars at a loss or just holding them. The dollar was set at 611/617 fils Wednesday in the first tier of the exchange system which covers essential imports and certain specified areas.

CBJ intervention was made possible by Arab aid extended to the Kingdom. In addition to Saudi Arabia's outright grant of \$200 million, Jordan also received, since April, a total of \$80 million from Kuwait, \$70 million from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and \$20 million from Oman (another \$10 million is in the pipeline, according to sources). Iraq paid \$40 million in addition to its monthly payments of \$20 million in repayments of its \$835 million government debt to Jordan.

Although the dinar rate has been steady for over three weeks, Jaradneh sounded a cautious note. "...There is a danger that rumors and speculation could damage the dinar," he said. But he voiced optimism that talks between the CBJ and its counterparts from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members would succeed in attracting deposits from the GCC central banks to boost the Kingdom's reserves and help counter "any speculation" against the Jordanian dinar. Negotiations are continuing between the banks, and there is a very good chance that major deposits will be made, according to an official source.

Economist Feneh sounded an even more optimistic note against speculation on the dinar. "In the short-run at least there would be no speculation," he said. "No one is expecting any surprises."

"There is no pressure against the dinar since there is no speculation whatsoever at this time," said another economist.

All the analysts interviewed by the Jordan Times agreed that the black market was playing a very negligible role in the market. The black market rate for dollars was quoted at 750 fils Wednesday, higher than the official rate. However, there is little demand. "The black market is almost non-existent," Feneh said.

"The black market is not even necessary anymore," an analyst said. "The supply and demand situation is balanced now," he added. He explained that the market did pick up when Jordanian students studying abroad were ready to go back to college and needed foreign exchange beyond the limitations set by the CBJ, but now "things have quieted down."

The next priority for the CBJ, according to bankers, is setting a unified exchange system before the end of the year.

"The ultimate rate is in around 650 fils (to the dollar), not around the 500s as previously set by the CBJ," said the chief dealer at a major Amman bank. "It think they will reach a unified rate by November or December this year."

Others expected the unified rate to be set by November, around the time when a team of International Monetary Fund (IMF) experts are expected here for a review of Jordan's austerity measures. Jaradneh and CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi are currently attending an IMF and World Bank "review session" on the Kingdom's economy and the measures it has adopted to address its economic problems.

Feneh also expected a unified rate by the end of the year but predicted a lower value for the dinar. "I think the unified rate has to be around 700 fils to the dollar," he said. "Anything less will mean that the dinar is overvalued."

In the meantime, the issue of reopening private money-exchange houses is being debated by officials. Informed sources said the government was studying a totally new set of regulations to govern money-changing houses, which were closed down last year. The careful approach of the government is too obvious to economists, who expect no immediate action. "The Central Bank would be sceptical to introduce new elements," said Feneh. "They are happy the way things are."

Another economist analyst said he expected permission for fewer but larger money-changing houses to operate. However, he said, "I do not expect them to reopen soon."

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171-6

Peanuts

MY GRAMPA AND GRAMMA HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR FIFTY YEARS... THEY'RE LUCKY, AREN'T THEY?

GRAMPA SAYS IT ISN'T LUCK... IT'S SKILL!

Mutt'n' Jeff

THE WHOLE TROUBLE IS, THIS COURSE IS AT LEAST SIX INCHES LOWER THAN THE ONE I PLAY ON!

SAY WHEN, MUTT!

Andy Capp

SHE'S STILL DISTRESSED ABOUT THAT YOUNG MAN GIVING HER UP... WHO IS?

OH, HER—ALWAYS DID WORRY OVER NOTHING. THOSE FISHY MORE FISH IN THE SEA.

THIS ONE HAPPENED TO BE A GOLDFISH... OH, DEAR

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Wednesday, September 27, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell	French franc	95.8	96.8
U.S. dollar	611.7	617.7	Japanese yen (for 100)	443.0	438.3
Pound Sterling	991.5	1001.4	Dutch guilder	287.8	290.7
Deutschemark	325.0	328.3	Swedish crown	95.0	96.0
Swiss franc	374.1	377.8	Italian lira (for 100)	45.0	45.5
			Belgian franc (for 10)	154.7	156.2

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
One Sterling	1.6187/97	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1740/50	Canadian dollar	
	1.8760/70	Deutschemarks	
	2.1182/87	Dutch guilders	
	1.6277/87	Swiss francs	
	39.33/37	Belgian francs	
	6.3525/75	French francs	
	1356/1357	Italian lire	
	140.53/63	Japanese yen	
	6.4270/320	Swedish crowns	
	6.9150/200	Norwegian crowns	
	7.3050/100	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	368.60/369.10	U.S. dollars	

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1989
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: One is too apt to have a chip-on-the-shoulder attitude today without really understanding why or knowing the reason for it. Stay on top ahead of the group by being cheerful, helpful and alert.

ARIES: (March 20 to April 17) You would be wise to think more how you can put your work across while you are doing your job. You will have good ideas today how to invest your money.

TAURUS: (April 18 to May 19) By injecting charm into your approach to your duties, you will be able to do a much better job. Avoid pleasure today in which you will have to spend considerable money.

GEMINI: (May 20 to June 20) Your talent at your work are sure to be at a new high now as you are outgoing. A man of business experience will help you with your financial affairs right now.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) You will have some wrong ideas about putting a deal across will be able to make you more money.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You will do well at your work today if you avoid spending a highly placed individual. You will need to get a better well-rounded understanding of a condition before you will be able to get the money.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) A new method or invention will make it much easier for you to go along with your work. Two persons from a distance will come to you for a very worthwhile proposition.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) The information you require to do a better job at your work is not quite ready to be put out. A most ingenious business plan can now

come to you which will bring an abundance.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You will be wise not to be so hasty and impulsive about the work that you now do. A change in the way that you put your ideas across will bring in more money.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 20) There will be so much activity at your work today that you will do well to be in the stream of it. A matter from a distance which you had thought distant now comes to life to bring you gain.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 19) Your good work today will depend upon the astute judgment that you yourself display. Using your finest talents and abilities will add to your financial security today.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 17) You will do a better job at your work today if you will listen to the suggestions of two highly placed persons. Don't hold back longer with that business proposition.

PISCES: (February 18 to March 21) Delays are now over and you will be able to do a solid job at your work. Much conversation with experts will show you the way to make considerable money or other assets.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will relate closely to the needs and troubles of mankind. Education should proceed along the lines of medicine, government, science and social service and they may be a desire to teach at one point. There is a tendency to take suffering to heart so teach this child to be optimistic.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1989

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Confusing, upsetting and deceptive conditions with the full Moon today are likely to test your penetrative ability as well as your disposition as you deal with four Moon squares.

ARIES: (March 20 to April 17) At your work today you will be able to combine mental ingenuity with manual dexterity. You are very concerned about financial affairs but don't invest too much at this time.

TAURUS: (April 18 to May 19) Ideas given to you by fellow workers will be most helpful to you in your duties today. Try to put your new propositions are the best means by which you can add to your income.

GEMINI: (May 20 to June 20) Through the inspired idea that you now have you will be able to get an increase in assets. A man with good merchandising ideas will help you put across your finest financial plans.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) You will just have found a new way to be more successful at your work and would be wise to continue using this method.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Do not allow yourself to get into a battle royal with a co-worker or friend today. This is the day however when you will be able to really enjoy yourself with your friends.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) You will now have a dramatic new idea that will help you greatly at your work load. If you want to keep good friends, don't get in a battle with them over money now.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) Carrying through with a crea-

Kasparov vs. computer

NEW YORK (AP) — World chess champion Gary Kasparov has vanquished all challengers since capturing the title in 1985, but none of those opponents could calculate 720,000 possible chess piece arrangements in a single second.

Deep Thought can.

Deep Thought, a chess-playing computer created by researchers at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, will challenge Kasparov on Oct. 22 at the New York Academy of Art in Manhattan. At least one chess expert thinks the computer could outduel the champion.

"Deep Thought is clearly the first chess computer with the potential to draw blood and defeat the world champion," said chess commentator Shelby Lyman, who helped arrange the match-up.

Robert Byrne, chess corres-

pondent for the New York Times, disagreed: "I would say it is not yet ready to mount a serious challenge to Mr. Kasparov." But that could just be sour grapes—Deep Thought defeated Byrne when the two squared off.

Byrne became the second chess grandmaster beaten by Deep Thought; the first was Bent Larsen of Denver, the world's 96th-ranked player with an International Chess Federation rating of 2580 based on his tournament performances.

In comparison, the computer's rating from the United States Chess Federation is 2250; the International Chess Federation put Kasparov at 2775.

Deep Thought captured the 1989 world computer chess championship in Edmonton, Canada. The matchup with Kasparov is part of an annual chess competition sponsored by ASG Computers Inc.

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Lendl scrapes through Bordeaux's 1st round

BORDEAUX, France (R) — Top seed Ivan Lendl scraped through the first round of the Bordeaux tennis Grand Prix Tuesday with a painfully drawn-out 7-6 (7-2) 6-7 (5-7) 6-1 win over Czech compatriot Karel Novacek.

The U.S. Open runner-up, looking off-form and ill at ease on clay, battled for two sets to find a weak spot in Novacek's baseline game.

"Obviously, so soon after the U.S. Open, I'm not yet used to clay, although I hope to play better than last week in Barcelona," commented Lendl, who was knocked out of the Spanish Open by 12th-seeded Andres Gomez of Ecuador.

Although committing numerous unforced errors, Lendl fought back from 3-5 down in the first set to go on to win the tie-break 7-2.

The second set was another fierce tussle, with both players holding their serves for a second tie-break which went 5-7 to Novacek.

However Lendl regained his form to win the final set 6-1 and qualify for the second round of the \$255,000 tournament against Lawson Duncan of the United States.

Eighth-seeded Frenchman Henri Leconte, apparently fully recovered from a back operation earlier in the year, had an easy 6-2, 6-2 win over compatriot Arnaud Boetsch and could end



Ivan Lendl

up meeting Lendl in the quarter-finals.

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BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

East-West vulnerable. South

deals.

NORTH

♠ 7 4

♥ K 6 4 3

♦ A J

♣ A K J 6 4

WEST

♠ K 8 2

♥ J 10 6 5

♦ J 5

♣ K 6 4

EAST

♠ J 10 8 2

♥ 7 2

♦ Q 10 8 7 5

♣ 9 3 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q 9 3

♥ A Q 7

♦ Q 10 8 5 3

♣ Void

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass

4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass

6 ♠ DBI Pass Pass

Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

It was the late S.J. Simon who first propounded the theory that, if you defeat every contract you double, you aren't winning the game as often enough. However, to double for an extra 50 or 100 points and thereby give away the show is hardly a profitable pastime.

South took the bidding along at a slow pace until North jumped to

three no trump. Since North could hold no more than two kings in the major suits, it was quite likely that he held a high diamond honor. South put his reasoning to the test with a slam try of four diamonds, then bid one more for luck after North raised. West's double was famous, and received its just deserts.

West led a trump, taken by dummy's jack. Declarer cashed the ace and was delighted to see East follow a second time. With nothing to guide him, declarer might have come to hand and conceded a trump trick, relying on either a 3-3 heart break or the spade finesse. However, the double marked the king of spades with West, so declarer tried something else.

He cashed the ace-king of clubs and ruffed a club, then the ace-queen of hearts. Next, he threw West in with a trump. That worthy was now firmly ensnared in an endplay.

A spade lead would be into declarer's major tenace, so West was forced to exit with a club. Since the lead of the queen would permit declarer to ruff and set up the jack for a spade discard, West led his ten of clubs.

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Saturday, Sept. 30, 1989.

FRIDAY'S RACES AT THE ROYAL RACING CLUB-TUNEIB

FRIDAY 29/9/1989 Vol. No. 18

FIRST RACE 4.00
FOR BEGINNER HORSES
DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mohammad Haman Adwan	Faisty	Owner	Basil	56
2- Hamdan Mansour	M. Hamdan	Owner	Basil	56
3- Taisei Mashhour El Faiez	N. Ziza	Owner	Basil	56
4- Ziad Rahal	Sabah	Owner	Younis	54.5
5- Mohammed Salman Nabolsy	D. Rabie	Owner	George	54.5
6- Rabie Adnan A. Hassan	Ghazwah	Owner	George	54.5
7- Nawal Nahar Elsyoud	S. Maen	Owner	Ahmad	53
8- Dr. A. El Naem A. Wandy	F. Raied	Owner	Arwar	51.5
9- Raied Yousef Hamdan	N. Naeel	Owner	Rasheed	51.5
10- Shihadih Aly Fokara	Ghobar	Owner	Hary	50
11- Abdullah Dawood	S. Maen	Owner	Jamal	50
12- Dr. A. El Hafez A. Wandy	A. El Jadali	Owner	Samy	56
13- Salim Mohammad A. Rawas	Hanaa	Owner	Mostafa	48.5
14- Mishaal Miteib El Faiez	O. Amjad	Owner	Mostafa	56
15- Abdullah Ahmad				

SECOND RACE 4.25
FOR BEGINNER HORSES
DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Khalid Hamdan Ayad	Bonkan	Owner	Ahmad	58
2- Khalid Nazzeeh Elabio	Ghazal	Owner	Mousa	54.5
3- Faeed Lazzam El Neel	Jemil	Owner	Mousa	54.5
4- Thamez Hozza El Hadeed	El Harad	Owner	Jamal	51.5
5- Samy Haddadin	F. Harady	Owner	Rida	50
6- Nimr El Hmoud	Dinar	Owner	Zaidan	50
7- Nawal Anwar El Shalan	Hatal	Owner	Rasheed	48.5
8- Raed Khalil Haddadin	Harady	Owner		

FOURTH RACE 5.15
FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES
DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mohammad Ahmad Kasim	Frajih	Owner	Jwarat	58.5
2- Fayed El Assal	Nymh	Owner	George	58.5
3- Salim Mohammad A. Rawwa	Salwan	Owner	Samy	58.5
4- Amjad Khalil Jamary	Kaed	Owner	Daham	56
5- Naeel El Hadeed	Mashhour	Owner	Ahmad	56
6- Soud Mohammad Soud	M. Fasal	Owner	Jbarat	56
7- Nasrallah Salm	Samba	Owner	Younis	54.5
8- Bashir Mishaal Barash	Israa	Owner	Satamah	53.5
9- Hamad Nahar Syoud	N. Hamad	Owner	Anwar	53
10- Taib El Nahar	Badr	Owner	Kasim	53
11- Eied Salman Khawathir	S. Eied	Owner	Mostafa	52
12- Samir Khalil Haddadin	M. Tank	Owner	Jamal	52
13- Thamez Maitouh El Faiez	Sharoud	Owner		

THIRD RACE 4.50
FOR THIRD & SECOND CLASSES HORSES
DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mohammad Khalid El Faiez	Kastal	Owner	Hary	56
2- Barakat Atial	Sahr	Owner	Hary	55.5
3- M. Hamdan A. El Jali	Naeel	Owner	Jamal	54.5
4- Mohammad Khalil Marney	N. Fais	Owner	Mousa	54.5
5- Noree Mohammad A. El Naby	Mahboubaty	Owner	George	51.5
6- Salamih Mshay Brayan	M. Assal	Owner	George	51.5

FIFTH RACE 5.40
FOR THIRD & SECOND CLASS HORSES
DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Kamal Wasil Bsharat	H. El Roman	Khareldin	Rasheed	59
2- Mansour Anwar El Shalan	Mazoun	Monsin	Kasim	58
3- Ghali Haddadin	Tamouh	Owner	Salameh	57
4- H. El Faiez El Saad	J. El Saad	Khareldin	Salah	56
5- Aly Faeed Elasad	Saad Aly	Khareldin	Jamal	54.5
6- Najla Wasil Bsharat	M. Dina	Zaidan	George	50
7- Nawal Anwar El Shalan	Ahd			

SIXTH RACE 6.00
FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES
DISTANCE 1600 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	S. Enam	Abbas	Rasheed	58
2- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	S. Enam	Abbas	Abbas	56
3- H.H. Late Sherif Nasir Stable	Hamdan	Abbas	Anwar	54.5
4- Nimr El Hmoud	Jamir	Rida	Jamal	58
5- Nimr El Hmoud	Rimal	Rida	Hary	54.5
6- Hany El Hadeed	Rosa	Owner	Mousa	56.5
7- Qudrallah Mary	H. Mary	Owner	Saad	56.5
8- Samir Mohammad A. Rawas	El Mayas	Owner	Samy	56
9- Fawaz Anwar El Shalan	Asheer	Zaidan	George	50

THE Daily Crossword by I. Miller

ACROSS

- 1 Beach resort
- 2 Streetcar
- 3 Small ducks
- 4 Redwood
- 5 Bird prod.
- 6 Penthouse
- 7 Play down
- 8 Fit to be tied
- 9 Spite
- 10 Soviet border
- 11 Che's usual
- 12 Unhappy
- 13 Amused
- 14 Battle of law
- 15 Raise in rule
- 16 La Scala
- 17 offering
- 18 Aspect
- 19 Back's mate
- 20 Playground
- 21 Fisherman
- 22 with net
- 23 profit?
- 24 Hgt.
- 25 Mr. Singer of "Gang"
- 26 Salomon
- 27 Damsel e.g.
- 28 Author Zola
- 29 - Hart
- 30 Cosmetic
- 31 Laundry
- 32 employee
- 33 Damsel
- 34 - a
- 35 - David
- 36 Student
- 37 Adult insect
- 38 Inefficient
- 39 No He, me
- 40 Docket Name
- 41 Suffit for trick or going
- 42 On the briny

Yesterday's Puzzle Solvers:

43 Warnings in poetry	44 Of the army	45 abbr.	46 Fess	47 Bog	48 One of show	49 guidance	50 Damsel	51 Author Hite	52 Adequate
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Sinhalese rebels ignore ceasefire

COLOMBO (AP) — Sri Lankan soldiers began observing a three-day ceasefire Wednesday in their battle against Sinhalese extremists trying to overthrow the government, but the group ignored the truce, killing at least two people.

The government halted military operations in southern and central Sri Lanka for 72 hours, beginning at 6 a.m. (0030 GMT), said military officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

The government had hoped the ceasefire would encourage members of the People's Liberation Front to open peace talks with the government.

But less than four hours after the ceasefire began, suspected members of the Sinhalese extremist group shot and killed two bodyguards of Jayasinghe Bandura, a member of the government's provincial council, the officials said.

The gunmen ambushed Bandura's car in Baddulla district, 130 kilometres east of Colombo, but he escaped unharmed, the officials said.

Suspected Sinhalese extremists also set fire to three government-owned buses in central Sri Lanka, but there were no casualties, they said.

The ceasefire was ordered one week after Indian peacekeeping soldiers in northeastern Sri Lanka suspended military operations against Tamil rebels fighting for a separate homeland there. The Tamil guerrillas so far have honoured that ceasefire.

The government hopes the ceasefire beginning Wednesday will encourage Sinhalese radicals of the People's Liberation Front to open peace talks.

A statement said the decision to call the ceasefire was made during a meeting last week between President Ranasinghe Premadasa and the five major opposition party leaders.

The ceasefire was one of 10 proposals in a plan proposed by the opposition to try to end strikes, assassinations and terrorism inspired by Sinhalese radicals.

The government said its soldiers would suspend all raids, cordon and search operations, but would help police maintain law and order. Mobile patrols, road blocks and checkpoints also will still be used to maintain order and guard against terrorist attacks, the government said.

Leaflets in the Sinhalese language were dropped from airplanes by government troops Tuesday over remote villages, offering rewards of up to 20,000 rupees (\$510) to extremists who surrender. There was no reports of surrenders.

Sinhalese extremists began their uprising after the government signed a peace accord aimed at ending the Tamil insurgency that began in the north-east in 1983.

The accord, brokered by regional power India, offered the Tamils limited autonomy if they would give up their weapons. It also invited troops from India to supervise the arms surrender.



The body of a man floats in a river in central Sri Lanka in what is believed to be the work of pro-government vigilantes fighting the leftist People's Liberation Front.

Soviets still pose a major threat to the West — Cheney

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union is modernising its armed forces and still poses "a major threat" to Western security despite President Mikhail Gorbachev's promised cutbacks and pledges of reform, says Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney.

Cheney, releasing the Pentagon's eighth annual assessment of Soviet military strength Wednesday, sounded a note of caution amid the sweeping changes in the U.S.-Soviet relationship.

"While the United States encourages the evolution of... a Soviet Union dedicated to democratic principles, we cannot react unilaterally to Soviet initiatives that are not yet implemented or to proposals which, if implemented, can easily be reversed," Cheney said in the study, "Soviet Military Power."

He said it is "clear that despite the dramatic changes occurring in the Soviet Union and the Soviet leadership's declaration of benign

intentions toward Western democracies, Soviet military capabilities continue to constitute a major threat to our security."

The Soviet Union, the secretary asserted, "continues to upgrade its forces and improve its capabilities."

"Indeed, while some Soviet military units and equipment have been withdrawn from Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union will remain the world's largest military power, even if the general secretary's promised unilateral reductions take place," Cheney said.

The annual study, which in its early editions under the administration of former President Ronald Reagan was derided on Capitol Hill and outside government as a propaganda effort, has evolved into a more comparative summary of the U.S.-Soviet military balance. It even acknowledges that the West leads its "arch rival" in areas such as naval

power. But with a 159-page array of high-gloss text, pictures and graphs, the study portrays the Soviets as an extremely formidable foe facing a United States that "grapples" with such things as the selection of a mobile missile force.

Cheney has repeatedly hit the theme of the continued Soviet threat in speeches around the country as he has attempted to counter Congress' efforts to rearrange his Pentagon budget.

Saying the likelihood for conflict between the superpowers "is as low as it has been at any time in the postwar era," the book discusses such developments as Gorbachev's announcement of significant cuts in conventional forces, reductions in the Soviet defence budget and weapons procurement, and the U.S.-Soviet arms control agreement on banning intermediate range missiles in Europe.



Dick Cheney

However, it also warns that Gorbachev's changes, if enacted, "may also prove hazardous to Western security."

If the Soviet leader's economic reforms are enacted without corresponding democratic growth, "the West could face a far more formidable Soviet threat than it does today," the study states.

M-19 urges to pardon traffickers Bogota

BOGOTA (AP) — The leftist M-19 guerrilla movement is urging the government to end its war against the cocaine cartels, pardon drug traffickers and refuse to extradite them to the United States.

The statement by M-19 was published in a full-page advertisement Tuesday in El Tiempo, Colombia's largest newspaper. It also urged immediate negotiations between the government and the powerful drug barons.

There was no comment from government officials.

The government and the army claim the drug traffickers and an estimated 10,000 guerrillas in six leftist rebel groups work together, with the cocaine cartels providing money to the insurgents in exchange for armed protection.

The M-19 proposal was not linked

in the advertisement to negotiations between the guerrillas and President Virgilio Barco's government on a possible peace pact.

Such an agreement would pardon the M-19 rebels and allow them to set by a political party. Talks have been delayed this week because negotiators for both sides were reportedly working out details of the proposal.

M-19 is the only guerrilla group negotiating with the government. M-19, which stands for May 19, was formed in 1970 by dissidents who claimed a presidential election that year was fraudulent.

The group has waged a campaign of assassinations, abductions, bombings and armed raids, but its actions in recent months have been overshadowed by the battle between the government and drug barons.

In 1985, M-19 guerrillas seized

the Palace of Justice in Bogota and 95 people were killed during the army assault to recapture the building.

In a related development Tuesday, a judge dropped charges against two reputed leaders of the Medellin drug cartel, saying there wasn't enough evidence.

Hundreds of tourists also fled the city of Cartagena aboard planes, buses and taxis after a bomb exploded Monday at the Hilton hotel, killing two people.

On Tuesday, a bomb exploded in a supermarket in a Bogota suburb, wounding five people.

In the five weeks since the country's drug lords declared war on the government for trying to break their trade, there have been 111 bombings, mainly in Bogota, Medellin and Cali.

Police say the bombs have killed

eight people and wounded 137.

El Tiempo said a Medellin judge Monday removed charges against Pablo Emilio Escobar Gaviria and Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, reputed kingpins of the Medellin-based operation that supplies most of the cocaine in the United States.

Both are on the U.S. Justice Department's list of 12 drug figures wanted for prosecution in the United States. The judge's action would not prevent their extraditions to the United States.

The government made no comment on the decision by federal Judge Francisco Cardenas. The prosecutor said he would appeal the action.

Escobar and Rodriguez were charged with planning the Jan. 25 assassination of Attorney General Carlos Hoyos.

Quayle: Philippines attacks will not deter U.S.

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines (Agencies) — U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle, outraged by the killing of two Americans in a communist ambush, vowed on Wednesday the United States would not be driven of its military bases in the Philippines by terrorism.

"Let me be very clear and let me be very direct. We will not allow terrorists to drive us from the Philippines," Quayle told an outdoor gathering of airmen at Clark Air Base, 80 kilometres north of Manila.

Quayle made the vow at both Clark and the nearby Subic Bay Naval Base after talks in Manila with President Corason Aquino during which they agreed to begin talks in December on the future of the two biggest U.S. military establishments off American soil.

Quayle secured the agreement at a meeting with Aquino as police broke up left-wing protests against his visit and arrested at least 157 demonstrators.

Ten people were injured when

dozens of protesters, shouting "Quayle, Quayle go home, bring your bases to hell," charged the Clark main gate. They were dispersed by truncheon-swinging riot police.

Rebels Tuesday killed two retired air force officers in an ambush in Tarlac, Aquino's home province, 50 kilometres from Angeles City and Clark Base.

They were the fifth and sixth Americans to die in the Philippines the past two years in attacks by rebels who oppose U.S. military presence in the country.

Quayle said the bases helped project U.S. power throughout the Pacific and the Indian Ocean as far as the Middle East.

"You help keep peace and ring the bells of freedom and democracy around the world," he told the U.S. servicemen at Clark.

He told servicemen at both bases, "I am convinced that majority of the people of the Philippines want us to stay."

The ambush victims Tuesday

were employees of Ford Aerospace Corporation, which has a contract to maintain an electronic warfare training range at Camp O'Donnell. The camp is a U.S.-run facility about 80 kilometres north of Manila and 20 kilometres from the Clark Air Base.

Ford Aerospace spokesman Norman Black identified the victims as William H. Thompson, 45, and Donald G. Buchner, 44. He said both were retired from the U.S. air force.

Gunnmen also killed a member of Aquino's presidential guard Tuesday, about 1.5 kilometres from where Quayle met the president Wednesday.

Following the hour-long meeting with Aquino, Quayle told reporters he delivered a letter from President George Bush proposing that Washington and Manila begin talks in December on the future of the six U.S. bases, whose leases expire in September 1991.

After the meeting, Quayle paid

a brief courtesy call on the widow of a captain in the presidential security group who was slain Tuesday.

Florentino Amoraban, a spokesman for the Philippine constabulary in central Luzon Island, said the assassins of the Americans were believed to be members of the New People's Army, which operates in the area.

In April, rebels killed U.S. army Colonel James Rowe as he was driving to the headquarters of the U.S. joint military assistance group in Quezon City. In October 1987, rebels killed three Americans in simultaneous attacks outside Clark Air Base.

In a statement released Wednesday, the New Peoples Army called Quayle's visit "part of the intensifying pressure by the United States on the Aquino regime" to extend the bases.

"This pressure covers all aspects, economic, political and military," the rebels said.

Trains reach Armenia for most food rotten

MOSCOW (R) — Freight trains began rolling into Armenia Tuesday, ending a month-long blockade by the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan, but much of the food arriving to alleviate shortages was rotten.

Soviet television showed pictures of trains moving into the southern republic one day after President Mikhail Gorbachev warned parliament that "concrete measures" would be taken if the blockade were not lifted within two days.

The blockade has left much of Armenia without fuel, newsprint, matches and most foods. It was imposed last month by Azerbaijan workers in a bid to starve Armenia into submission in the longstanding dispute between the two republics over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The official TASS news agency said 17 trains carrying cement, building materials, spare parts, timber and iron had arrived by early evening.

But Soviet television said most

cargo could not be unloaded as there was no fuel to operate vehicles.

"We can't unload as there is simply no petrol," A. Kandilyan, railway chief in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, told a television interviewer.

"If we don't unload things soon, things will really get tied up... who's going to pay for all this?"

Television showed pictures of a consignment of potatoes from central Russia, rotten and full of maggots after spending more than three weeks in the hot Azerbaijan sun.

Industry throughout Armenia has been brought virtually to a standstill by a lack of raw materials.

Private cars have vanished from the roads and even emergency vehicles have been subject to petrol rationing. Reconstruction of areas hit by last December's devastating earthquake has been halted and long queues form daily outside food

shops. In this speech Monday, Gorbachev said there were few signs of an end to the 20-month conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, populated mainly by Armenians but run by Azerbaijan since 1923.

The dispute has proved one of the most intractable of the ethnic quarrels threatening Gorbachev's "perestroika" programme of political and economic reforms. More than 100 people have died in clashes in both republics and more than 200,000 have fled their homes.

The Communist Party daily Pravda reported Tuesday that motorised division of Interior Ministry troops had been dispatched to Nagorno-Karabakh to support the estimated 4,000 troops stationed in the region since January.

Since the beginning of the year, a Moscow-appointed committee has been running Nagorno-Karabakh, but both republics have denounced its operation and continued to press their claims to the territory.

Thailand says Vietnamese troops still in Cambodia

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (R) — A Thai official said Wednesday tens of thousands of Vietnamese troops were still in Cambodia to fight Khmer Rouge guerrillas despite Hanoi's claim that they had all left by Tuesday.

At the same time, the Khmer Rouge stepped up propaganda to persuade Cambodian government troops to abandon their positions, saying they had launched a three-pronged offensive to capture the strategic town of Pailin.

Deputy Foreign Minister Prasit Limpabhandit, touring villages along Thailand's border with Cambodia, said Vietnam had recently reinforced its positions against the guerrillas, which enjoy Bangkok's support and operate from bases in Thailand.

"Tens of thousands of Vietnamese settlers (in Cambodia) have been recruited and trained to be soldiers replacing the withdrawn troops," Prasit told reporters after being briefed by

military officials during a helicopter trip along the border.

He cited as evidence military intelligence reports and heavy Cambodian artillery barrages that he said could only have been fired by Vietnamese troops.

The Thai Foreign Ministry has adopted a hard line against Vietnam and the government is left in Cambodia in contrast to Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan's more accommodating stance as part of his initiative to end the fighting.

An international conference in Paris last month failed to reach agreement on monitoring the Sept. 21-26 withdrawal, which was observed by allied diplomats and hundreds of journalists.

The Khmer Rouge's Voice of Democratic Kampuchea said in a broadcast monitored in Bangkok its forces had recently made three attacks in the battle for Pailin, a well dug-in military outpost in wooded hills 10 kilometres from the border.

One was a direct artillery and infantry assault on the town itself, which is empty of civilians. Another was aimed at cutting route 10 from Pailin to the provincial capital, Battambang, and a third moved on positions north of Pailin.

The radio said the attacks cut supply routes and it appealed to the government fighters stationed in the area to "flee at once if you want to survive because the Cambodian national resistance forces will soon attack these places."

Military analysts in Bangkok said the Khmer Rouge, who wreaked havoc and killed more than one million people in their 1975-78 rule, were playing on their fearful reputation to try to instil panic.

Cambodian government soldiers among a group of 119 who defected to Thailand last week after being cut off said they gave up because they were terrified of the Khmer Rouge.

Johannesburg opens up facilities

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Johannesburg formally opened all public facilities to blacks Wednesday after the city council voted to integrate buses, swimming pools and recreation centres.

The move was approved at a Tuesday night meeting despite strong opposition from members of the far-right Conservative Party who favour strict racial segregation.

"We are taking a large step in South African terms," said council member Harold Rudolph, who voted in favour of integration.

Most public facilities in major cities have been integrated in recent years, either informally or by the repeal of legislation enforcing apartheid, South African policies and customs of racial segregation.

But the council's decision marked the first formal declaration to integrate all public facilities controlled by the city. Cape Town already has taken similar steps.

The council's decision does not affect schools, neighbourhoods or hospitals, which are segregated by national and provincial laws. Also, private facilities may be segregated under the separate amenities act.

Earlier this year, the Johannesburg City Council polled white voters on the question of integration. A majority said they approved of integrated buses and recreation centres, but almost 60 per cent were opposed to opening swimming pools to blacks.

"We know (integration) is going to create problems but these are manageable problems and we will rise to the challenge," said council member Ian Davidson.

The Five Freedoms Forum, a white-led anti-apartheid group, said it welcomed the council's decision.

"If facilities controlled by the council can be opened, so then can the facilities controlled by the council be opened, so then can the facilities such as hospitals and schools that are controlled by the central and provincial governments," the group said.

Anti-apartheid groups launched a nationwide defiance campaign Aug. 2 that has targeted segregated schools, neighbourhoods, beaches, buses and other facilities.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Carter credits Gorbachev for world change

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has singled out Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as the chief cause of dramatic change in the world in the 1980s. Carter, in an interview with the San Francisco Examiner, also said Gorbachev probably enjoyed more popularity than anyone except comedian Bob Hope. Asked how the world looked now compared to the period of his administration from 1977 to 1981, Carter replied: "It looks dramatically different, for one reason, and that is Gorbachev. He is the most popular person by far that I know about. Even in the United States, he has about a 75 per cent favourable rating. I think the only one ahead of him in the last poll I saw was Bob Hope."

India launches medium-range missile

NEW DELHI (AP) — India Wednesday successfully launched an indigenous surface-to-surface medium-range missile for a second time, news reports said. The missile, called "Prithvi" or "Earth," was launched at 10:45 a.m. (0510 GMT) at the interim missile test range in eastern Orissa state, the United News of India reported. According to the Defence Ministry, Prithvi can deliver up to 1,000 kilograms of high explosives beyond a range of 150 kilometres.

Marcos pacemaker turned off

HONOLULU (AP) — Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos was fitted with an external pacemaker after suffering an erratic heartbeat, but the device was later turned off after stabilisation, hospital officials said. Marcos' heartbeat returned to normal after the device was attached Monday night, said Eugene Tiwanak, assistant administrator of St. Francis Medical Centre, where Marcos has been hospitalised since Jan. 15. Hospital spokeswoman Norma Kop said doctors decided Marcos' heart could beat normally on its own, and device was turned off Tuesday. It remained at his side and could be reattached if necessary, she said. Doctors had no plans to insert an internal pacemaker, she said.

Police officer held in theft of drugs

SYDNEY (AP) — A police officer responsible for impounded drugs was charged Wednesday with stealing 20 million (Australian) dollars (\$16 million) worth of heroin, cannabis and cocaine from the central police drug registry. Police said in Sydney's central local court that Michael Wallace, 36, siphoned off drugs that had been seized in police raids and then tried to resell them on the black market. Wallace, who worked at the Federal Drug Registry, was arrested in early morning raids on his home and those of his parents and brother. Police said they recovered 16 kilograms of heroin, more than two kilograms of cocaine, 10 kilograms of hashish oil and a small quantity of cannabis as well as 240,000 (Australian) dollars (\$192,000), believed to be the proceeds of drug sales. Wallace made no plea to charges of possession and obtaining money illegally. Magistrate Arthur Riedel did not consider bail and ordered him to appear in court again on Oct. 4.

'Return to moon vital en route to Mars'

WASHINGTON (R) — The administrator of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said Tuesday that if U.S. astronauts were to go to Mars they would first have to learn to live on the moon. Richard Truly, defending President George Bush's plan to return men to the moon before trip to Mars, told Congress that a moon programme would reduce the risks of future exploration. In the first NASA testimony since Bush's July 20 proposal for a new U.S. manned venture into space, Truly said that no cost estimates had been made and a voyage to Mars could not take place until well into the 21st century. In a written statement to a house science, space and technology subcommittee, Truly said the option of going directly to Mars would be too ambitious and could not be accomplished without great risk.

COLUMN

First woman White House aspirant honoured

HOMER, Ohio (R) — Several hundred people turned out for "Victoria Day," honouring the first woman to run for U.S. president, nearly 50 years before women won the right to vote in America. Victoria Claflin Woodhull, born Sept. 23, 1838, also reportedly was the first woman stockbroker on Wall Street and the first woman to speak before Congress, said organisers of Saturday's event. "Most people do not even know who she is, but she was an example of courage and leadership," said Joseph Berg, president of the Homer Historical Society. Several hundred people gathered at the local library to trade stories about Woodhull and buy and sell T-shirts, caps, plates, bells, postcards and other souvenirs. Woodhull was the candidate of the Equal Rights Party in 1872, receiving only a few thousand votes. One of her election opponents was then-President Ulysses S. Grant, who was reelected. "Victoria was a person who believed that blacks and women were people, just like the constitution said they were," Berg said.

65-year-old Olympic medal for sale

LONDON (AP) — Medals and memorabilia belonging to Olympic hero Harold Abrahams, whose story was told in the film "Chariots of Fire," will be sold at auction Nov. 21. The gold medal Abrahams won for the 100-metre race in the 1924 Paris Olympics will not be among the items sold, as it was stolen from his home some 50 years after his victory. Christie's auctioneers said that heirs of Abrahams, who died in 1978, had put up for sale some 30 medals, the stopwatch he used during training and his CBE, the Commander of the British Empire award bestowed by Queen Elizabeth II in 1957. Several menus are among a quantity of documents being sold, including one for a dinner held in honour of the Olympic athletes at the House of Commons in 1924. It is covered with signatures of athletes including Abrahams and Eric Liddell, the Scottish runner who refused to compete on Sunday, and was featured in the 1981 film. Also for sale will be a leaflet from the service of Thanksgiving for Abrahams in 1978 at the Church of St. Bride in Fleet Street.

105-year-old 'born with vitality'

SOUTH KINGSTOWN, Rhode Island (AP) — The secret to long life is to be "born with a lot of vitality," says a woman who celebrated her 105th birthday with congratulations from more than 30 friends and relatives. Sadie Purnell received a letter of congratulations from U.S. President George Bush and his wife, Barbara, and a citation from Rhode Island Governor Edward D. DiPrete at her party Tuesday, one day after her birthday. Purnell told stories of her childhood, growing up as the eldest of 15 children. At age 15, she began working as a weaver in the textile mills, where she later met her husband, Francis, who died in 1963. About two years ago, Purnell moved in with Richard Purnell, one of her 10 grandchildren. Purnell said his grandmother has 17 great-grandchildren, 13 great-great-grandchildren and three great-great-great-grandchildren.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	°C	°F	WIND
AMSTERDAM	13	55	19	88 Cloudy
ATHENS	17	63	30	88 Cloudy
BAHRAIN	20	70	36	87 Clear
BANGKOK	24	75	32	80 Rain
BUEENOS AIRES	07	44	12	58 Cloudy
CAIRO	19	66	31	88 Clear
CHICAGO	08	36	21	70 Clear
COPENHAGEN	10	50	32	74 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	08	46	19	68 Cloudy
GENEVA	10	50	22	72 Cloudy
HONG KONG	27	81	31	88 Clear
ISTANBUL	14	57	25	77 Cloudy
JAKARTA	14	57	30	88 Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	18	64	22	84 Cloudy
MADRID	16	61	26	79 Clear
MEXICO	28	82	46	115 Clear
MONTREAL	03	37	17	68 Cloudy
MOSCOW	12	54	22	72 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	24	75	34	93 Clear
NEW YORK	08	46	22	80 Cloudy
PARIS	13	55	25	77 Cloudy
ROME	14	57	28	82 Clear
SYDNEY	12	54	17	82 Cloudy
TOKYO	21	70	28	82 Clear
VIENNA	15	59	20	68 Cloudy